



INFLOW & INFILTRATION REDUCTION PROGRAM: SEWER SMOKE TESTING

How does smoke testing work?

- The City of Fort Lauderdale and Ardurra Group Inc. will distribute door hangers prior to smoke testing. Additionally, Fire and Police Departments are informed of where smoke testing will be conducted each week. During smoke testing, field crews blow air and smoke into the sanitary sewer system in the street and monitor where smoke escapes the system. The smoke under pressure will fill the main line as well as any connections and then follow the path of any leak to the ground surface, quickly revealing the source of the problem. For instance, if smoke permeates up through a yard, it indicates breaks in the sewer line. Only enough force to overcome atmospheric pressure is required and smoke should escape from building roof vents. If you have any doubt as to the source of the smoke in your home or yard, phone 9-1-1 immediately.

Will my street be closed during testing?

- The City of Fort Lauderdale and Ardurra may temporarily close off traffic to access manholes required for smoke testing.

Will inspectors have some sort of ID?

- Yes. All smoke testing personnel will have proper identification and be in marked vehicles.

Will the smoke testing be visible, and will it enter my home during the testing period?

- While the smoke will be visible coming out of manhole covers and vent stacks in roofs, it should not enter homes.
- To reduce the likelihood of smoke entering a building, the City recommends that you pour 2-3 gallons of water into seldom used sinks and floor drains. This may be done any time prior to the start of the testing.

Why is this type of test commonly used?

- This routine, preventative maintenance test will help identify leaks, defects and stormwater inflows in the sewer system. It is one of the most cost-effective ways to make sure our wastewater collection system is working properly.

Does someone need to be home for this?

- No, no one needs to be home during smoke testing.

Is smoke testing safe for people, pets, and plants?

- Yes. The process is safe. The smoke used is non-toxic, non-staining, and odorless. A person, animal or plant that comes in contact with the testing material will not be in danger.



Has the City of Fort Lauderdale ever done testing like this before?

- Yes, smoke testing is a required maintenance activity in order to maintain the health and longevity of our sanitary sewer collection system.

Why is the City of Fort Lauderdale using this method?

- Smoke testing is cost-effective and efficient when trying to identify potential concerns in our sewer systems.

What can residents expect or what will residents see if smoke happens to enter their home or place of business?

- During testing, smoke should not enter a home. However, if it does, this means that the homeowner may have a potential plumbing problem on their property. The City of Fort Lauderdale recommends that the homeowner call a plumber at their convenience. Repairs by the City of Fort Lauderdale will only occur in the public right of way.
- If smoke enters your property, do not become alarmed.
- Open windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke emission; smoke will clear within a few minutes.
- Exit the building and notify smoke testing personnel in the area.

Who will be responsible if defects are found?

- If the defect is found on private property, it is the obligation of the homeowner. If the defect is found in the right of way, the defect will be addressed by the City of Fort Lauderdale.

What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

- When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place, you should:
 - Check to see that all drain traps under basins, washing facilities and floor drains contain water. Simply flush toilets and run or pour water into all drains, including unused fixtures and floor drains.
 - If there is an individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations, or if you have any additional questions, contact the Inflow & Infiltration Hotline at 877-332-4037 or ftlii@ardurra.com.

To see a map of the areas where smoke testing is scheduled and learn more about sewer smoke testing and the City's efforts to reduce inflow and infiltration, visit ftlcity.info/iandi.

For more information or questions, contact:

Inflow and Infiltration Program Hotline

877-332-4037 or ftlii@ardurra.com

