

August 2019

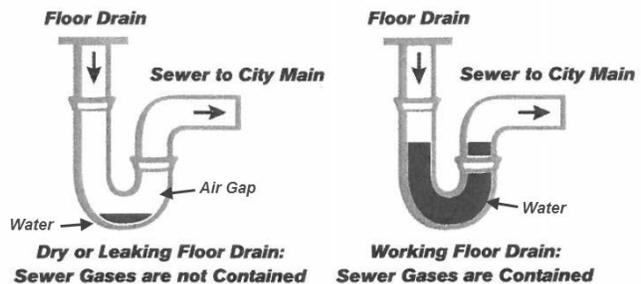
## 2019 Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

Dear Resident:

The City of Rolling Meadows is conducting a program to identify locations where storm water is entering the City sanitary sewer system. The study, being performed by the engineering firm RJN Group, Inc. of Wheaton, Illinois, includes smoke testing of the sanitary sewers.

Smoke testing is a simple means of locating openings in the sewer system that allow surface rainwater runoff to enter the sanitary sewers. Air combined with non-toxic smoke is forced into the sewer at manholes, usually located in the street, filling the system. Smoke will appear where there are defects in the main sewer line (usually located under the road) or laterals (connection between the main sewer line and a building) or where other connections to the sewer system exist, such as roof drains, patio drains and footing drains.

Smoke should not enter buildings unless there is defective plumbing or dried-up drain traps. Pour 1 gallon of water down all floor drains and any rarely used sinks/tubs/toilets to ensure that a water barrier is maintained in the drain traps. The drain trap water barrier prevents sewer gases or odors from entering the building. If the drain trap water barrier is present and smoke does enter your home, the potential exists for sewer gases to also enter your home and you should consult a



licensed plumber to fix the problem. If smoke is entering your home, please leave your house and contact a member of the RJN crew if they are still on the street, if the RJN crew is no longer in the area please call the RJN Crew Leader at (630) 639-1914 or the City at (847) 963-0500 and a City employee will be dispatched.

The smoke is non-toxic, low odor, creates no fire hazard, leaves no residue, dissipates quickly, and is harmless. However, if someone in your home has respiratory problems, you may wish to take extra precautions on your own, such as leaving your home until the smoke testing is completed.

Smoke testing is scheduled to begin in mid-August and is expected to be completed by early September, weather permitting. Additional notification will be provided by door hanger cards prior to the start of smoke testing and signs will be posted when crews are testing in your area.

Additional information on smoke testing sanitary sewers can be found on the RJN Group website: [www.rjn.com/SmokeTesting](http://www.rjn.com/SmokeTesting), or use the Q+R code to get to the site. If you have questions, please call Cathy Morley, RJN Project Manager, at (630) 682-4700 x1354 or the City of Rolling Meadows Public Works Department at (847)-963-0500.



Your cooperation with the 2019 Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

City of Rolling Meadows  
Public Works Department