

# NOTICE OF SEWER SYSTEM SMOKE TESTING



TOWN OF  
**WEST SENECA**  
"PROUD PAST - UNLIMITED FUTURE"

**In the upcoming weeks, a crew will conduct smoke testing in your neighborhood's sanitary sewer system. Your street will be tested between**

**April 25, 2017 - May 5, 2017.**

**A more specific timeframes will be communicated via the Town's Code Red system.**

This non-invasive test does not typically require private property access and will usually take place Monday through Friday, from 7am to 5 pm.

This notice provides answers to questions you may have about what to expect on the day of testing.

*For any questions, please contact:*

**James Hunt, EIT– Clark Patterson Lee– 716.218.4746  
Steve Tanner, PE– Clark Patterson Lee– 716.218.4741**

(Please turn over for homeowner tips and frequently asked questions about smoke testing)

*What is the purpose of smoke testing and how will it be conducted?* Smoke testing is used to find possible leaks in the sanitary sewer system. During this test, non-toxic, artificially created smoke (like a fog machine at a concert) is blown into access points (manholes) in the pipe. This smoke will escape through defects in the pipe, such as holes or cracks, or through illicit connections such as roof leaders, and be visible above ground. Smoke coming from plumbing vents and manhole rims is normal during this test. Any defects will be noted and may also be photographed.

*Do I need to be at home during smoke testing?* No.

*What do I need to do to prepare for smoke testing?* When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place on your street, make sure that all drain traps under sinks, toilets, washing facilities and floor drains, including those in your basement have water in them. To fill them, simply run each faucet for 30 to 60 seconds, flush toilets or fill the drains with about 3 cups of water.

*What should I do if I have pets and will not be home during smoke testing?* The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter your home. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the drain traps have water in them, there should be no smoke entering your home.

*Is the smoke harmful to humans or furnishings?* No. It may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health or clothing and furniture.

*What should I do if smoke gets into my home and how long will it take to clear?* If smoke enters your home during testing, please notify the contractor performing the test outside immediately. Open windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke. Smoke inside your home can help identify bad plumbing connections or a cracked seal around a toilet. Smoke alarms may sound. The smoke will clear quickly.

*Who will conduct these tests?* The Town of West Seneca has retained Clark Patterson Lee to manage the testing. KHEOPS Architecture, Engineering & Survey will conduct the tests.

*Can smoke cause problems in the sanitary sewer system?* No. The smoke is a vaporous substance that is blown through the system to detect leaks and stormwater inflow defects. The material safety data sheet for the smoke is available by contacting James Hunt or Steve Tanner from Clark Patterson Lee.