



Notice to Residents

The Township of Cramahe will be performing smoke testing on the sanitary sewers. Onsite Sewer Services will begin work **March 12, 2018**. The hours of work are scheduled 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

What is Smoke Testing? Smoke testing is a safe, quick way to find areas of the sewer system that need updating. The “smoke” used in the test has no odor, isn’t harmful to your health, and will disappear in a few minutes. The test consists of blowing a harmless cultured vapour into the sanitary manholes and observing the points where the smoke exists. The smoke is expected to exit from manholes, the sewer stack at the top of your house, catch basins and downspouts. The smoke should not enter your home if it is properly plumbed and if your sink and drain traps contain water.

What is the purpose of Smoke Testing? The purpose of smoke testing is to find potential points of inflow and infiltration in the sanitary system that could lead to high flows during storms and snow melt events. It can also help locate any cross connections between sanitary drains, storm drains and sump pumps.

What are the benefits of Smoke Testing? Smoke testing is a simple and fast method of testing the sewer system. The vapour is harmless and will disappear after only a few minutes. The testing is also a cost effective way to find areas of the sewer system that need improvement.

Is the smoke harmful? No. If the smoke enters your home, it is not harmful to your health and will not harm clothing, drapes or furniture. This type of smoke is used in the entertainment industry to create fog/smoke for theatre and concerts.

What should I do to prepare for the smoke testing? Check to see that all traps under basins, washing facilities and floor drains have water in them. This can be done by running a small amount of water in all basins and tubs, especially those used infrequently.

What does it mean if smoke enters my house? If smoke enters your home during the test, it probably means there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may allow sewer gas to enter. Sewer gas may contain gases that pose a threat to human health.

What should I do if smoke gets into the house? If smoke does enter your home, note the location of the smoke entry point and seek to one of the crew persons conducting the test or contact the Township of Cramahe, representative below.

If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take the smoke to dissipate? Open windows for ventilation. The smoke will dissipate in a few minutes.

I will not be at home during the testing and have pets. Should I be concerned? The smoke is not harmful to pets. You may provide ventilation by leaving several upstairs windows partially open, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper connections and all the traps have water in them, there should not be any problems.

Contact Information: For more information or to report the presence of smoke within your house during testing, please contact Jeff Hoskin, Manager of Operations at 905-355-2846 ext. 121 or Cramahe Town Hall at 905 355-2821. We will endeavor to limit the inconvenience to residents during the test.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hoskin

Manager of Operations