

NOTICE

SMOKE TESTING SEWER

McKim & Creed and Mead & Hunt are consultants for The City of Fort Myers conducting Smoke Testing of the Sanitary Sewer Lines.

Work Crews will be in your area beginning:

February 2026

These tests involve blowing non-toxic “smoke” into the sewer system to find pipe damage, poor connections and where unwanted water infiltration may be entering the City sewer system. The smoke you may see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is **NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.**

The smoke should not enter your home or business if it is properly plumbed.

ADD WATER TO YOUR SINKS & FLOOR DRAINS

It is advisable for the homeowner to pour a gallon of water into each floor drain prior to our testing. Water can evaporate from unused plumbing fixtures allowing sewer gases to enter the home. As a precaution, open the bathroom windows for ventilation and close the door in case smoke does enter the bathroom. If you are not home and discover smoke when you return, please call us at **239-337-1071**.

IMPORTANT! If there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations, please notify us at 239- 337-1071 prior to testing.



www.FortMyersSanitarySewerEvaluation.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will the testing take?

Crews may be in your area for several hours, but the actual testing typically takes between 45 and 60 minutes.

What should I do if smoke enters my home or business?

Do Not Be Alarmed. Open windows to all ventilation and note the location of the smoke emission. Smoke will clear within a few minutes. Exit the building and notify the smoke testing personnel in the area. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE SOURCE OF THE SMOKE IN YOUR HOME OR YARD, PLEASE CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Does the smoke used have an odor?

The smoke has a distinctive but not unpleasant odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes with adequate ventilation.

Why do you recommend evacuating the structure?

The smoke is safe, non-toxic, non-staining, and harmless to you, children, pets, plants, food, materials, and creates no fire hazard. Those with respiratory conditions should take special precautions.

I am a pet owner and will not be home during the testing.

The smoke is not harmful to pets. If possible, leave pets in a room without any plumbing fixtures and with the door closed to isolate them from any smoke that may enter the house.

What does it mean if smoke enters my house?

If smoke enters your home or business during the test, it may indicate there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may allow potentially dangerous sewer gases to enter. Please contact your plumber to further investigate the source and remediation.

Do I have to be home during the test to give testing staff access? How will I know if smoke enters my house?

No, inspection crews will not need to enter your home. The purpose of the Smoke Test is to identify sources of rain or ground water entering the sewer system.

Can the smoke testing activate the smoke alarm?

Yes, smoke alarms may activate during smoke testing if the home/business is not properly plumbed, or if the water traps are dry. If possible, open windows and/or doors for ventilation. If you have any doubt of the source of the smoke, please call 911.