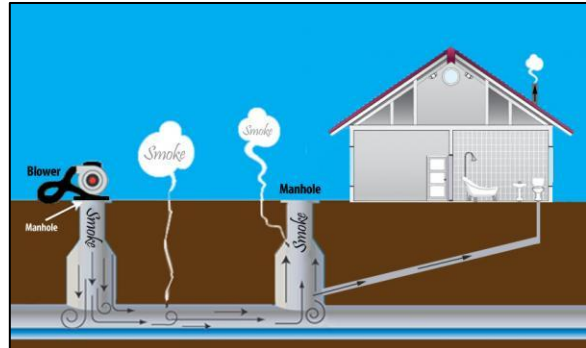


Carroll County Water Authority

Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is smoke testing?

Smoke testing is a common and effective technique used to identify areas where unauthorized water, such as rainwater, creek water and other storm water runoff, is entering the sewer collection system. Unauthorized water causes an unnecessary load on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. CCWA has hired a contractor, CSL Services, Inc., to smoke test approximately 20,000 linear feet of sewer mains. CSL will use a product specifically made for smoke testing that creates a non-toxic mineral oil based smoke that workers will



*blow into the sewer system. During the test, you can expect to see smoke escaping through vent stacks on the roof of your home and neighboring homes (see picture to left), indicating the building's plumbing was properly installed. **It is important to note that test smoke emitting from roof vents does NOT indicate the home is***

***on fire.** You should also expect to see smoke escaping through the ground, building foundations, gutters, yard cleanouts, manhole covers and pavement indicating a potential entry point for unauthorized water (see picture to right).*

Since smoke is used to identify potential entry points of unauthorized water, CCWA and CSL personnel will also be walking through your neighborhood, and in some cases backyards and wooded areas, attempting to identify where smoke is emitted from the sewer system. CSL & CCWA personnel will be easily identified by their uniformed shirts and labeled trucks.

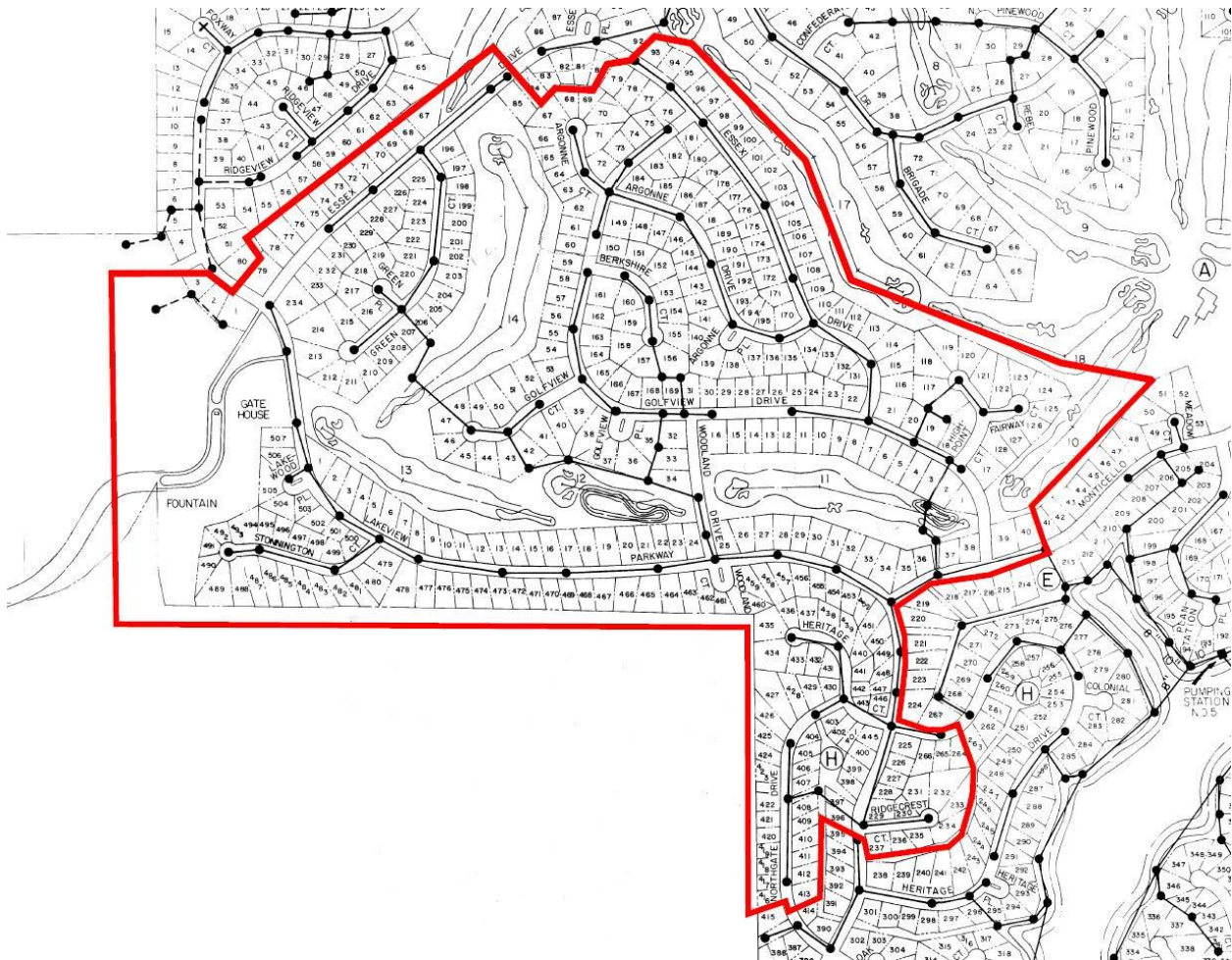


2. What area does CCWA plan to smoke test?

CCWA plans to smoke test the sewer collection system that serves homes along roads listed in the following table. A map of the area is presented below the table.

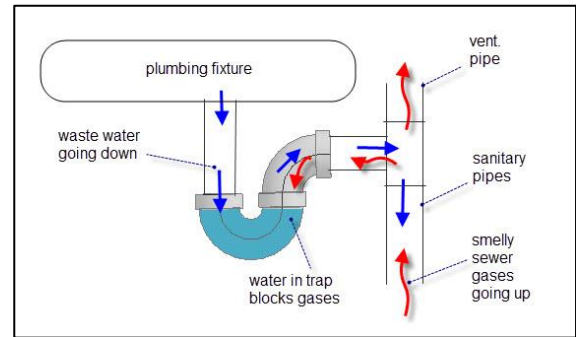
Roads within CCWA Smoke Testing Area

Argonne Drive	Argonne Place	Birkshire Court	Essex Drive
Fairway Court	Golfview Court	Golfview Drive	Golfview Place
Green Court	Green Place	Heritage Court	Heritage Drive (1238 – 1248 only)
Highpoint Court	Lakewood Place	Northgate Drive	Ridgecrest Court
Lakeview Parkway (1001 – 1003, 1220 – 1238, 1391 – 1602 & 3051 – 3052 only)			
Monticello Drive (1035 – 1041 & 1213 – 1219 only)			
Ridgeview Drive (3054 – 3065 only)	Stonnington Court	Woodland Court	Woodland Drive



3. Will smoke get into my home?

*No, provided your plumbing drains are not dry and your plumbing is properly installed and in good condition. **To reduce the likelihood of smoke entering your home, be sure to pour a gallon of water into all sinks, showers, basement floor drains and other drains, particularly drains that are not used frequently, prior to the start of smoke testing. Assure dry toilets are also filled with water.** Smoke should not enter your home unless:*



- *Vents connected to your building's sewer pipe are inadequate, defective or improperly installed;*
- *Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed or missing; or*
- *Pipe, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under your home are damaged, defective, have clean out plugs missing or are improperly installed.*

4. What color is the smoke?

Smoke used for smoke testing is white in color and will have a slight odor of mineral oil. The smoke is non-toxic, is not a fire hazard and leaves no residue.

5. When will smoke testing be performed?

Smoke testing is scheduled to begin on or about Monday, September 18th and is expected to be completed within 5 working days. Smoke testing will be conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Smoke testing cannot be conducted during rain or very windy conditions. While smoke testing crews will be in the area for approximately 5 days, most homes will only be in the active smoke testing area for a few hours.

CCWA personnel will inspect the sewer collection system in the weeks leading up to the smoke testing to ensure manholes, sewer lines and easements are accessible and clear of any obstructions.

6. Will my sewer service be disrupted by smoke testing?

No, sewer service will not be disrupted during smoke testing. Fairfield Plantation residents can continue to utilize both water and sewer services during testing without interruption.

7. Is breathing the smoke harmful?

Although the smoke is non-toxic, it may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people. Individuals with respiratory problems such as chronic asthma, emphysema or other respiratory conditions should avoid direct exposure to the smoke and may want to consider vacating the home during active testing in the unlikely event that smoke enters their home.

8. What should I do if smoke gets into the house?

If smoke does enter your home, open windows and doors for ventilation, and you may want to consider using a portable fan to help exhaust smoke out a window. The smoke should dissipate quickly with adequate ventilation. If you do see or smell smoke in your home during smoke testing, report it to a member of the testing crew. If you have any doubt as to the source of the smoke in your home, call 911.

If possible, note the location of smoke emission within your home since smoke entering the house may mean that potentially harmful gases from the sewer could be entering your home. Identification and correction of the smoke entering your home is strongly recommended and is the responsibility of the homeowner.

9. Can the smoke activate a smoke alarm in my home?

Yes, smoke alarms may be activated during testing if smoke enters your home.

10. Do I have to be home when smoke testing is being performed?

Homeowners do not need to be home during the smoke testing.

11. I will not be at home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?

The smoke is not harmful to pets. It may be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, in the unlikely event that smoke does enter the house.

12. Will traffic be affected by smoke testing?

Smoke testing involves blowing smoke into sewer manholes, some of which are located in roadways, and CSL workers will need to remove manhole covers to blow smoke into the sewer system. CSL will furnish flagmen as necessary to assure the safety of local residents and their visitors.

13. How does smoke testing identify sewer leaks?

Smoke emitted from locations other than roof vent pipes may indicate a broken pipe or connection that allows storm water runoff to enter the sewer collection system.

14. Why is keeping storm water out of the sewer collection system important?

Storm water connections to the sewer collection system add to the volume of water that must be processed by wastewater treatment plant. CCWA hopes to reduce wastewater treatment plant flows and associated costs by addressing leakage identified through smoke testing.

15. Who can I speak with to learn more about CCWA's smoke testing program?

Please feel free to contact Tom Kohler, CCWA's Engineering Manager, at (678) 890-0055 if you have questions or concerns related to CCWA's smoke testing program.

CCWA sincerely appreciates your cooperation and patience as we continue efforts to improve our sewer infrastructure.