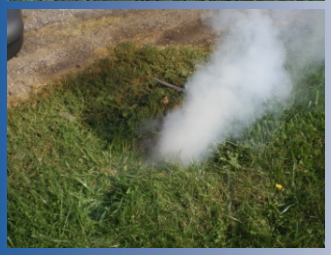

Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

THE CITY OF CHEBOYGAN

October 2021 – December 2021

Why Are We Doing This?

The City of Cheboygan is conducting a sanitary sewer inspection program on the City's sanitary sewer system. This is required in order to determine if the City is contributing excess flows to the sanitary sewers. These excess flows could be storm (rain) water entering the sanitary sewers through cracks in sanitary pipes, manholes or through sanitary/storm sewer cross connections. This excess flow is then unnecessarily sent through the sanitary sewers to the Cheboygan wastewater treatment plant where it is treated as if it were sanitary flow.

What is Smoke Testing?

Smoke Testing involves blowing smoke through the sanitary sewer to locate deficiencies in the system. You may see smoke coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground. The smoke varies in color from white to gray depending on density and lighting. The main effects of the smoke are some minimal irritation of the throat, an awareness of an odd odor, and the appearance of smoke. These effects act as a warning and are desirable to prevent voluntary overexposure. It is **NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD**. The smoke should not enter your home or business unless the plumbing is not functioning properly. If you have any seldom used drains and floor drains, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap prior to the test. Should smoke enter your home or business, leave the area, ventilate well to dissipate the smoke and please call one of the numbers listed below (preferably the HRC Field Representative).

Who is Doing The Testing?

Smoke testing was authorized by the City, and will be conducted by Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC), the City's consulting engineering firm. Crews will be in marked vehicles and have identification. Crew members may be required to enter onto private property to record observations.

Where Will The Smoke Testing Take Place?

The smoke testing will occur generally in the west and south half of the City (refer to Smoke Testing Map for more detailed location information).

What Should Residents Do?

The testing should not affect your home or business, or your sanitary sewer service. Homeowners or business owners do not need to be present during the investigation, which will be conducted during normal business hours. However, you **MUST POUR WATER DOWN SELDOM USED DRAINS PRIOR TO THE TESTING**, especially floor drains in your home or business. This should prevent smoke from entering your home and setting off smoke alarms unnecessarily. Residents should be aware that some smoke may enter your home/business if the vent stack is blocked or a sewer tap is dry. If you detect smoke, don't be alarmed, the smoke is harmless and will dissipate after several minutes. If you do find or see smoke in or around your home/business, please notify the HRC Field Representative.

Who do I Contact for More Information and/or a Problem?

If there is an immediate problem or concern, contact:

Nate Coffin, EIT, HRC Field Representative, (248) 318-9410.

If you have additional concerns or comments, you can contact the following people:

Jennifer Morreale, P.E., CFM
HRC Project Manager
(248) 535-3320

Jason Karmol
City of Cheboygan
Director of Public Works
(231) 627-2582

HRC

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