

PUBLIC NOTICE
SMOKE TESTING OF THE LEWISTON SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM
Phase 1
September 6 – 7, 2022
(Inclement Weather Alternate Dates: September 12 – 13, 2022)

To All Residents and Occupants of the City of Lewiston:

The City of Lewiston Public Works and Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) will be conducting smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system starting the month of September. **Phase 1 of testing is planned for September 6 – 7.**

Phase 1 areas: Park Dr., Benson North and South, Tews Ave., Court St., Fremont South, 1st and 2nd St., Benike St., and Country Club Dr. If time allows the following areas will be tested: West Main, Meadow Dr., Whispering Pines Court, and Cedar Ln.

In the event of inclement weather or difficulty in performing testing, we may conduct testing on September 12 – 13.

Additional dates will follow for the remaining portions of the city.

A special non-toxic smoke will be used in these tests. The smoke is manufactured for this purpose, leaves no residuals, or stains, and has no effect on plant or animal life. The smoke has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

This study is being conducted to identify areas where storm or surface water may be entering the sanitary sewer system. Personnel will be opening and entering manholes in streets and public utility easements.

Because the plumbing appliances in your house or building are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter your home or place of business if:

- Vents connected to your building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing. **(Please run water in all drains before these testing dates)**
- Pipes, connections, and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under your buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

All residents are advised that if traces of this smoke or its odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that gases and odors from the sewer also may enter. Sewer gases can be both unpleasant and dangerous, and a health risk to the occupants. **Should smoke enter your home or business, please immediately contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in your area (MRWA & City of Lewiston Public Works) or call 507-961-8147.**

The crew member will be able to help locate where the smoke has entered your home or building. Location, identification, and correction of the source of smoke is urgently advised and is the responsibility of the home or building owner. Your cooperation is appreciated.

The information gained from this testing will be used to improve sewer services in the City of Lewiston

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact Erik at 507-523-2257.