



**For Immediate Release
June 15, 2009
City of Belton, Public Works Department
816-331-4331**

City of Belton Conducting Smoke Testing of Sewer System

The City of Belton continues smoke testing of the sanitary sewer in neighborhoods to identify obstruction and defects with the sewer system.

Smoke testing will resume the week of June 22, 2009, weather permitting, in an area generally bounded by Narcissus Street on the north, Kentucky Road on the east, 71 Highway on the south and Mullen Road on the west.

The City of Belton has contracted testing services with TREKK Design Group, LLC to assist in detecting storm water inflow and infiltration entering the sanitary sewer system. Storm water entering the sanitary sewer may result in system overflow and backups. Excessive storm water in the sanitary sewer system can also increase sewer charges.

Door hangers will be distributed at each residence to be tested approximately 48 hours prior to the testing. They will provide information about the procedures, names, and phone number of personnel to contact for more information.

In addition, signs will be posted in neighborhoods where testing is occurring.

The smoke that residents may see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is: **NON-TOXIC, HARMLESS, ODORLESS, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.**

The smoke should not enter homes unless there is defective plumbing or dry drain traps. If this occurs, residents should consult a licensed plumber. In any event, the smoke can enter through faulty plumbing. The potential, likewise, exists for dangerous sewer gases to enter your home or establishment. Should smoke enter buildings, residents may contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the neighborhood.

Recommendations Before Smoke Testing

If residents have any seldom used drains, such as floor drains in basements, water should be poured in the drain to fill the trap, which will prevent smoke from entering there. Drain traps should always be filled with water to prevent sewer gases or odors from entering the building. Additionally, many washing machine drain pipes do not have traps. To help prevent smoke from entering your building around the washing machine drain pipe, tie a damp rag around the drain opening.

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During the smoke testing, TREKK personnel will identify defects that are revealed when smoke escapes through them. Locations for detects may include roof downspouts, uncapped cleanouts, driveway drains, stairwell drains, yard or area drains, window well drains, foundation-perimeter drains and defective service pipes.

Smoke testing normally requires only a few hours in an area. The information gained may be used to improve neighborhood sewer services.

Saturated soil hinders the migration of the smoke through the soil; therefore smoke testing activities will not be conducted during or immediately following rain events.

In addition to smoke testing, TREKK Design Group is inspecting manholes. Later this spring, a limited number of building inspections will be conducted.

For more information contact the City of Belton Public Works Department, 816-331-4331. Residents may also find information about the smoke testing at www.belton.org.

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