



HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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City’s Public Utilities Department conducting annual testing of sewer system

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg’s Public Utilities Department is conducting its annual testing of the sanitary sewer system.

The effort involves release of a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into area manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this testing is to detect any breaks or leaks in the City’s system and make appropriate repairs, if necessary.

Testing begins this week and will run through November. During this time, residents may notice smoke rising from manhole covers, yards where systems run, or even from their bathtubs, toilets, or sinks.



(Above) This graphic shows how the annual testing works, and where residents may notice some smoke.

This year’s testing will take place in the following areas:

- Amherst Court
- Augusta Circle
- Bartlett Court
- Canterbury Court
- Cedar Street
- Central Avenue
- Chestnut Drive
- Colonial Drive
- Dale Circle
- Dogwood Drive (South)
- Easthampton Court
- Elmwood Drive
- Emery Street
- Erickson Avenue
- Heatwole Road
- Hidden Creek Lane

- Howard Lane
- James Place
- Kingston Court
- Laurel Street
- Logan Lane
- Lynne Place
- Main Street (South)
- Maplewood Court
- Middlebrook Street
- Millwood Loop
- Moonview Court
- Mosby Court
- Mosby Road (West)
- New York Avenue
- Northampton Court
- Pear Street

- Queen Anne Court
- Rex Road
- Rockbridge Circle
- Russell Drive
- Sharon Lane
- Sharpes Drive
- South Avenue
- Southampton Court
- Starlight Court
- Suncrest Court
- Toppin Blvd
- Vale Circle
- Wakefield Court
- Walker Street
- Weaver Street (West)
- West Avenue

High Street (South)
Hillandale Avenue
Hope Street

Perry Street
Pleasant Hill Road

Westhampton Court
Wyndam Woods Drive

These businesses and organizations will also see smoke testing in their area:

- Wal-Mart, 2160 John Wayland Hwy.
- Thomas Harrison Middle School, 1311 W. Market St.
- Sentara Healthcare, 1661 S Main St.
- Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board (Summit House), 1888 Pear St.
- Mosby Heights Housing Authority, 2510 Mosby Court

The city has a total of 190 miles of sewer lines and a section of those lines are tested each year.

Some smoke will be seen being released from rooftop plumbing vents, which is an indication of a properly installed plumbing system.

Tips for residents:

- Pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs, which will prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering a home or business.
- If the non-toxic smoke enters a residence or business, this is a sign of a defect in the plumbing. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. Open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke, and contact a qualified plumber.
- Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building where smoke has entered as a precautionary measure.

Anyone with questions may contact the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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