



# SEWER SMOKE TESTING NOTICE



The Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission in conjunction with Haley and Ward Engineers has contracted Flow Assessment Services to conduct Sewer System Smoke Testing for the purpose of locating sources of storm water inflow to the sanitary sewer system. The study will locate direct and indirect connections such as catch basins, area drains, roof drains, broken sewer pipe, and deteriorated pipe joints. The smoke tests consist of harmless white smoke introduced through the sanitary sewer system using smoke-generating machinery. During this procedure, this white smoke will vent from holes in manhole covers located on the street as well as plumbing vent pipes located on or near your roof surface. You may also witness smoke coming out of grass, cracked pavement, catch basins, and roof drains.

**THIS IS EXPECTED AND SHOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR ALARM.**

Smoke should not enter your premises unless there is a dry trap or defective plumbing. You should pour some water down unused plumbing fixtures or a basement drain to ensure that the drain trap will be effective. If smoke is seen in your house, it is important to call the sewer department to report, as it may indicate the susceptibility of gases from the sewer system entering your building through the defective plumbing.

Should smoke be detected within the building, **DO NOT BE ALARMED.** The smoke is **NON-TOXIC AND NON-STAINING.** Simply ventilate the home and report the presence of smoke to the personnel conducting the test outside in the vicinity of your building. You may also call the sewer department at (781) 631-2694 to report smoke inside your home. If possible, they will assist you in locating the source that allowed the smoke to enter the building.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- You are not required to be home when the testing is being performed on your street.
- The testing will be performed in your neighborhood within the next 24 to 72 hours.
- Weather may shift test periods beyond the 24 to 72 hour time frame.
- Please call Flow Assessment Services at **1-888-311-9799** should you have any questions or concerns

