



**Department of Public Works**

Town Hall, 365 Boston Road, Billerica, Massachusetts 01821  
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Abdul Alkhatib, Director

**WASTEWATER SMOKE TESTING NOTICE**

The Town of Billerica Department of Public Works in coordination with Flow Assessment Services LLC, is currently conducting a sewer system study for the purpose of locating sources of storm water inflow to the sanitary system. The study will locate direct and indirect connections such as catch basins, area drains, roof drains, broken sewer pipe and deteriorated pipe joints. One of the methods to be utilized is smoke testing of the sanitary sewer.

During this test, white smoke is introduced through the sanitary sewer system via a smoke generating machine. During this procedure, white smoke will be vented from holes in manhole covers located on the street and plumbing vent pipes located on or near your roof surface.

**THIS IS NORMAL AND SHOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR ALARM**

Smoke should not enter your premises unless there is a dry tap in your basement floor drain or any unused plumbing fixtures. You may wish to pour some water down your basement drain or unused plumbing fixture to insure that the drain trap will be effective. Smoke could also enter the building through defective plumbing. The owner should note this because if odors were to develop in the sewer system, these odors may possibly enter 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 crew conducting the test outside in the vicinity of your building. They will assist you in locating the source that allowed the smoke to enter the building.

Your cooperation is appreciated in this effort to provide you with quality sanitary sewer service.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- A) You are not required to be home when the testing is being performed on your street.
- B) Once you receive this notice, the test will be performed 24 to 72 hours after notification. Weather conditions, holidays and weekends may shift test periods beyond the 24 to 72 hour time frame.
- C) If you have any questions, please call the Wastewater Treatment Facility at 978-671-0956 or 978-671-0965, or Gary Welch of Flow Assessment Services LLC at 603-396-6926.