

RARITAN TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
365 Old York Road
Flemington, NJ 08822

DATE: September 1, 2018

RTMUA will be performing smoke / fog testing on the sanitary sewer system some time during the month of September, possibly into October, weather permitting. RTMUA staff will be conducting the testing;

This testing of the sewer lines takes about 30 minutes to complete and will locate connections, breaks, and defects in the sewer system. The whitish smoke / fog that you may see coming from vent stacks on homes or other structures or from holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, HARMLESS, ODORLESS AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD. The smoke / fog should not enter a home or other structure unless there are defects in the plumbing or empty drain traps in the building.

If the smoke / fog associated with the testing enters your home or other structure, you should not be alarmed, but you should contact a member of the testing crew working near your home or facility. The crew members will be wearing fluorescent vests and will also be wearing identification tags. They will be driving RTMUA maintenance vehicles with "RTMUA" on the driver and passenger doors.

To reduce the possibility that smoke / fog will enter your home or other structure, you should pour a pail of water into seldom used floor drains or other plumbing fixtures throughout the building, including the basement. This will reduce the potential for smoke / fog as well as sewer gases or odors entering the building. If smoke / fog from the testing enters your home, you may simply open a window to allow ventilation. If you suffer from any lung or respiratory ailments, please contact us at the number below for special service.

This survey and other data collection activities will aid the RTMUA in locating defects in the sanitary sewer system and are part of an effort to provide residents with improved sanitary sewer service. Your cooperation is important to a successful completion of this program.

Sincerely,
Gregory LaFerla
Chief Operator/Director
Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority
Phone: (908) 782-7453 X17
Email: GLaferla@rtmua.com

SMOKE TESTING INFORMATION SHEET

Utility owners use sanitary sewer smoke testing as a cost-effective approach to identify system defects (e.g. broken cleanouts, pipe cracks, manhole lid separations, etc.) or improper connections (e.g. floor drains, downspouts, yard drains, stormwater cross connections, etc.) that minimize its capacity during rainfall events. Defects and improper connections have the potential to allow rainwater into the sanitary sewer system, which are designed to convey wastewater **only**. A separate storm water sewer system is designed to collect and convey runoff from rain into streams, creeks, bays, and stormwater management systems. When rainwater infiltrates the sanitary sewer system via defects and improper connections, the sewer system becomes overloaded and has the potential to create environmental and public health hazards.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes smoke testing as an effective way to locate defects in sewer systems. Smoke testing includes forcing smoke/fog into the sanitary sewer system, as illustrated on **Figure 1** using a blower placed at a central manhole. Plugs are placed at the extents of the test, which allows the smoke to become pressurized. Smoke/fog will escape via defects and improper connections, if present.



Figure 1. Smoke Testing Illustration

The smoke is NON-TOXIC, LEAVES NO RESIDUE, CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD, AND DISSIPATES QUICKLY. The smoke fluid is manufactured by many companies for the purpose of this testing, endorsed by EPA. USA Bluebook® is one such company that produces this product that is currently being used in the County-testing (See **Figure 2**).



Figure 2. Smoke Fluid