



FLOSSMOOR

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Village of Flossmoor

Public Works

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Village Clerk

Ananda Billings

Village Manager

Bridget A. Wachtel

July 16, 2020

Current Address

713 Ash St.
Flossmoor, IL 60422

Re: Smoke Testing of Sanitary Sewers in Your Neighborhood
Village of Flossmoor Inflow/Infiltration Control Program
Flossmoor Hills and Highlands Neighborhoods

Dear Resident:

As part of the Village's ongoing efforts to improve our residents' level of service, the Village of Flossmoor is conducting a smoke testing program. This program will locate sources of storm/groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer system during significant rain events, which can overload sewers and cause sewage backup into homes. **Baxter & Woodman, our consulting engineer, and Duke's Root Control has been hired to help with this work.**

The work will tentatively be taking place in your neighborhood between August 3 and August 14, 2020, weather permitting as the smoke testing work relies on dry conditions. There will be signs posted in your neighborhood the day the work will be conducted. Door hangers will also be issued approximately two to three days before the smoke testing begins as a reminder.

Smoke testing involves pressurizing the sanitary sewers with a non-toxic, non-flammable liquid smoke. The smoke will rise from manholes, vent stacks on the top of homes/buildings, and from the ground in areas where sewers have defects. This process requires access to sanitary manholes located throughout the area. Technicians will wear yellow vests and may enter the front, side, and back yards to complete their work.

The smoke will not leave a residue and should not enter your home under most conditions. However, smoke may appear indoors from (a) a floor drain or bathroom fixture trap that has become dry due to lack of use or (b) defective sewer piping that allows sewer gases to enter your home directly. **If you have seldom used sinks or floor drains, please pour one-half (1/2) gallon of water into each seldom used sink or drain to fill the trap. This should prevent smoke from entering. A drain in the basement floor is the most likely location where a dried-up drain trap may be found.** Ultimately, you may have to consult with a licensed plumber if a problem exists within your residence.

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The smoke is non-toxic, creates no fire hazard, leaves no residue, dissipates quickly, and is harmless. However, if someone in your home has respiratory problems, you may wish to take extra precautions on your own, such as leaving your home until the smoke testing is completed. If the smoke does enter your home, open some windows to dissipate the smoke, take children and pets outside, and contact the smoke testing crew that will be working nearby or call the number listed on the back of the door hanger. If you have any doubt whether smoke may be from the smoke testing or from a fire, do not hesitate to call the Flossmoor Fire Department at 911.

Smoke testing is a procedure that has been widely and safely used for many years and is an important tool used in controlling water pollution. Your cooperation with this program is greatly appreciated. If you have questions regarding specifics of the future work, please contact Duke's Root Control at 888-655-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Brunke", written over a light blue horizontal line.

John S. Brunke, PE, CFM
Public Works Director