



Your Authority. Hard at Work Serving You.

815 Bustleton Pike
Richboro, PA 18954

Service Calls & Emergencies:

Call: 215-357-8515

Fax: 215-357-5315

Email: info@nbcma-pa.org

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SMOKE TESTING

The Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) will be conducting **smoke testing** of the sanitary sewer beginning **August 19, 2024 to August 23, 2024, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8AM to 4PM.**

The following areas are to be smoke tested:

- BEVERLY RD.
- BLACK ROCK DR.
- BLACK ROCK PL.
- BROOKSIDE DR.
- BUCK RD.
- BUCKSHIRE DR.
- BUCKSHIRE PL.
- CARRIAGE HOUSE DR.
- CHRISTOPHER DR.
- CRESCENT DR.
- E. HERON RD.
- E. PATRICIA RD.
- E. RAMBLER DR.
- GATEHOUSE DR.
- HERON PL.
- HERON RD.
- HERON WAY TERR.
- HOLLAND RD.
- HOPE RD.
- LAKEVIEW DR.
- MALLARD RD.
- MARTIN DR.
- MILL CREEK RD.
- MORNING GLORY AVE.
- RISING SUN AVE.
- ROCKSVILLE RD.
- RONALD DR.
- TWIST DR.
- W. RAMBLER DR.
- WOODEN BRIDGE RD.
- WOODLAKE DR.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at 215-357-8515 or visit us at nbcmatoday.org.

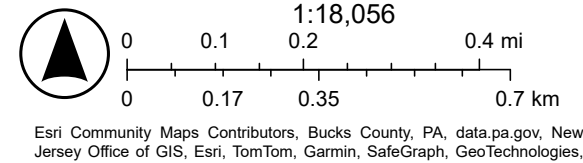
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

2024 NBCMA Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing Area



7/24/2024

Area of Smoke Testing August 19, 2024 to August 23, 2024,
Monday to Friday between the hours of 8AM and 4PM.





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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) will be conducting **smoke testing** of the sanitary sewer in your area beginning **August 19, 2024 to August 23, 2024, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8AM to 4PM.** This study will involve entering of manholes in the streets and utility easements. An important task will be to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system where storm, ground and other surface water may enter the sewer system. Removing these sources of water conserves capacity in the sewer system, reduces cost and protects the environment.

A special non-toxic smoke will be introduced into the sewer system. The smoke is specifically manufactured for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains, and has no harmful effect on plants or animal life. The smoke has a distinct, but not unpleasant, odor. The smoke and odor only last for a few minutes where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in your house or building are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter your home or place of business if:

- Vents connected to your building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, improperly installed, or missing.
- Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

To avoid smoke entering your building, please ensure that your drains traps are filled with water by turning on each faucet for 30 seconds or pouring a few cups of water down each sink, bathtub, floor drain, shower, etc.

Smoke coming out of plumbing vent roof stack is completely normal and is not a cause for alarm. All residents are advised that smoke should not be seen indoors. If smoke is entering your house or building, it is an indication that gases and odors from the sewer system also may enter. This can be both unpleasant and dangerous, as well as a potential health risk to occupants. **If smoke enters your home or business, please ventilate the area and contact NBCMA at 215-357-8515.**

Our staff will be able to help and assist you as to where the smoke has entered your building. Location, identification and correction of the source of smoke entering your house or building is urgently advised. The correction of any defects in the pipes and sewer on private property is the responsibility of the property owner, and a licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure proper corrections are made.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at 215-357-8515.

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SMOKE TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What exactly is smoke testing?

NBCMA technicians will use a high-capacity blower to test each sewer line with smoke. These blowers are placed on manholes and the non-toxic smoke is blown through the sewer system network of pipes. Any location where the smoke exits the sewer system, except for plumbing roof vent stacks, is a potential source for storm or ground water to enter the sewer system. These areas will be identified, and repairs made, which reduce the cost of having to treat these sources of water other than the wastewater coming from houses or buildings.

What are the benefits to smoke testing?

Smoke testing is one technique utilized to identify sections of sewers lines that may exhibit inflow during heavy rainfall. Smoke testing is most effective at detecting inflow sources such as roof downspouts, driveway, yard and area drains, foundation drains, illegal sump pumps, faulty connections, and storm water drainage system cross connections. It can also detect structural damage such as broken or cracked pipes, leaking joints and broken cleanout caps. Removing these sources of water reduces the cost of treatment and protects the environment.

Will I be advised when smoke testing is being done in my area?

YES. Smoke testing will be performed by the NBCMA staff between the hours of 8AM to 4PM Monday to Friday. Smoke testing notices will be distributed in your area utilizing door hangers, automated phone calls, text and email messages. Information will also be posted on our website at www.nbcma-today.org.

Is the smoke being used hazardous?

NO. The smoke is manufactured for this purpose and is non-toxic to plants and animal life and leaves no residues or stains. It **does not** create a fire hazard and the local fire department, police and township staff are aware of the testing.

Do I have to do anything to prepare my home for Smoke Testing?

YES. Plumbing drain traps need to be filled with water to prevent smoke from entering your home or building. If the plumbing fixtures are used on a frequent basis, the drain traps should have an adequate amount of water in them. Pay particular attention to seldom used sinks, tubs, showers and floor drains, as the water in them can evaporate over time. To fill the trap, run the faucet for 30 seconds or pour 2 cups of water into each drain.

Do I need to do anything if smoke enters my home while NBCMA is conducting smoke testing in my area?

YES. Although the smoke is non-toxic, you should ventilate the area so the smoke will dissipate and contact NBCMA at 215-357-8515. Our staff will be able to help and assist you as to where the smoke has entered your home or business.

Why should I be concerned if smoke enters my house or building?

If smoke enters your house or building, it is an indication that gases and odors from the sewer system may also enter, which can be both unpleasant and dangerous, as well as a potential health risk.

Am I responsible for correcting piping defects in my home, building or private property?

YES. Property owners are responsible for making any repairs to sewer pipes in the home or building and on private property. Location, identification and correction of any defects in the pipes to your home or building is urgently advised, and a licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure proper corrections are made.

Is it normal for smoke to come out of the roof vent stack on my house or building?

YES. The vertical pipe coming out of the roof is called the vent stack and provides an outlet for gases and odors for the buildings wastewater plumbing system.

Should smoke be coming out of my rain gutters or downspout?

NO. Smoke coming from rain gutters and downspouts is an indication they are connected to the sanitary sewer system, which can overload the design capacity of the pipes and increase treatment cost during rainfall events. It is also a violation of Northampton Township Ordinance 492.

Why is smoke coming up out of the ground in my yard?

Smoke coming from the ground can be caused by a defect in the underground sewer pipe that connects your home or building to the sewer pipes in the street. Examples of defects are broken or crack pipes, broken or missing cleanout caps, and missing or defective seals at joints. Smoke may also come from yard and driveway drains if they are illegally connected to the sanitary sewers. All defects mentioned are a violation of Northampton Township Ordinance 492.