

The Metropolitan District to Conduct Smoke Testing in Wethersfield

The **Metropolitan District (MDC)** has initiated a long term program of sewer system repairs and system upgrades to eliminate ongoing sewage overflows to the environment and basement back-ups. The work—part of the Clean Water Project—will occur in all District Member communities over the next 10 to 15 years. This initial project responds to a Consent Order from the USEPA and the Department of Justice to eliminate overflows and capacity limitations in the sewer system throughout the Metropolitan District member towns.

In order to improve the sanitary sewer service in your area, The Metropolitan District has retained the services of Malcolm Pirnie and Flow Assessment Services, LLC. (FAS, to conduct a smoke testing program on portions of the sanitary sewer system between, **August 17, 2006 and October 6, 2006, weather permitting**. FAS vehicles are red with the company name on the sides and their personnel will have photo identification. Smoke Testing will be performed Monday through Friday, during normal work hours (8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

The inspection is being conducted as part of The Metropolitan District's Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey. The purpose of smoke testing is to locate sources of rainwater entering the sanitary sewer, which reduce its capacity and cause the discharge of raw sewage in our local streams and the Connecticut River. By removing this extra flow, the MDC will reduce the environmental impact of discharging raw sewage and provide additional sewer capacity for future economic and residential growth.

During the test, white smoke is introduced into the sanitary sewer system via a smoke-generating machine. This white smoke will normally be vented from holes in manhole covers located in the street and from plumbing vent pipes located on or near the roof surface of homes and businesses. This is normal and should not cause concern.

Smoke should not enter a premise unless there is either a dry plumbing trap in unused plumbing fixture or a defect in the plumbing. Property owners may want to pour 2 gallons of water down the basement floor drain or unused plumbing fixtures to ensure that the plumbing trap will be effective.

The smoke is non-toxic, non-staining, and dissipates quickly through open windows. Smoke within a building should not be cause for concern. Any smoke within a building should be immediately reported to the persons conducting the tests.

IMPORTANT: If someone has a lung ailment or respiratory condition, being in contact with concentrated amounts of the smoke may aggravate the condition. If you have these or any other concerns please contact, Julie McLaughlin at the number listed below.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF STREETS BEING TESTED IN YOUR TOWN CONTACT THE TOWN HALL, THE MDC OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.THECLEANWATERPROJECT.COM.

Questions should be directed to Gary Welch of FAS (603) 656-9799, Chris Ciriello at Malcolm Pirnie (781) 213-4902 or Julie McLaughlin of the MDC (860)278-7850 x3309 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.