

City of Morton to begin smoke testing of sewer system Updated

During the month of May, the city of Morton Utilities Department will begin conducting smoke testing of the sewer system, to locate and identify breaks and defects in the system and to determine where storm and surface water may enter the system. Testing will be split up into block sessions and residents will receive notices at their homes before testing occurs on their block.

A special non-toxic smoke manufactured for this purpose will be used in the tests. The smoke has a distinctive, but not unpleasant odor and leaves no residuals or stains and is not harmful to plants or animals. Visibility and odor last only 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. This may happen if the vents connected to your home or building are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed; if traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed or missing; and if pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under your buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

Please note that if traces of the smoke or odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that gases and odors from the sewer may also enter, which can be unpleasant, dangerous and a health risk. Should this occur, please contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in your area. The crew member will determine the location, identification and correction of the source of smoke.

The information gained from this testing will be used to improve sewer services and may reduce the eventual cost to utility customers.

Please contact Joshua Holmes at 360-496-5287 for more information.