

NEWS RELEASE - CITY OF MARSHALL, TEXAS

MARSHALL WATER UTILITY DEPARTMENT
DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION DIVISION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CITY OF MARSHALL WATER UTILITY DEPARTMENT
ANNOUNCES SMOKE TESTING PROGRAM TO LOCATE SEWER LINE
INFILTRATION LOCATIONS.

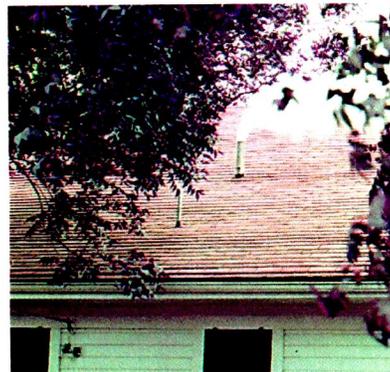
As part of our annual program to reduce groundwater infiltration into our hundreds of miles of sewer lines throughout town, weather permitting, our Distribution & Collection Division of the Water Utilities Department will begin smoke testing sewer lines on Monday, September 10th.



Smoke testing is a very simple process that involves pumping non-toxic smoke into sewer main lines, allowing smoke to seep up through the soil and indicate any cracks or line deterioration which is a source for groundwater to infiltrate our sewer lines and overload the collection and treatment system. The smoke testing program also allows the city to locate

problems in private sewer lines that need to be repaired. Once locations are identified, city crews will repair infiltration sources in our sewer mains and notify customers of any private line repairs they need to make.

We take the time to notify the general public because the smoke can be mistaken as a fire, when smoke vents out through commercial or residential sewer vent pipes on their roof or even in their yard. City crews will also set out door hangers in each neighborhood prior to testing, alerting everyone of why they may be seeing smoke. Attached is a copy of the door hanger and a smoking testing information sheet.



The smoke test program is set to start next Monday and should be completed by the end of September. Our testing schedule will be as follows:

- Sept 10th - 17th
 - Main Street and Lake Street neighborhood area
 - Main Street to Third Street, and south to Grand Ave.
- Sept 17th - 28th
 - Johnson Street neighborhoods

If residents or customers have any questions, they may call 903-935-4485.

Distributed by:

J. C. Hughes, Public Works Director

903-503-4503 (cell)

jchughes@marshalltexas.net

ATTENTION

Smoke Testing Of the Wastewater Collection System City of Marshall, Texas

In the next few days, inspection crews will be conducting a physical survey of a portion of the City of Marshall, Texas sanitary sewer system. This survey involves the opening and inspecting of manholes and sewer lines in the streets and easements. An important task of the survey will be the **smoke testing** of the sewer lines to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke that you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is **harmless, has little odor and creates no fire hazard. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps.** If this occurs, you should consult a licensed plumber. In any event, if the harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to enter your home or business. Should smoke enter your home or business, call the City of Marshall at 935 - 4485 or contact a member of the smoke testing crew. We can check the sewer lines around your home or business to determine the source of the smoke.



do not need to be home and at no time will field crews have to enter you home or business.

Photographs will be made of leaks occurring in the system. We anticipate the smoke testing will require a few hours in your area. Your cooperation will be appreciated. The information gained from this testing is being used to improve the quality of your wastewater collection system and to prevent the potential contamination of the Edwards Aquifer.

If you need special assistance or would like more information, please contact:

The City of Marshall
Telephone: 903-935-4485

To prevent smoke from entering your home or business: Make sure that all drain traps (also called "U Joints" or "P Joints") in your home are filled with water by pouring water in the drain. A filled drain trap will keep smoke out of your home or business. Make sure the air conditioning unit runs within several hours of the testing to ensure that the condensation drain trap is filled with water.

Crews may need to access sewer manholes in utility easements on your property. Whenever these lines require investigation, members of the inspection crews will need access to the easements for the sewer lines and manholes. City personnel are uniformed. **Homeowners**

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Smoke Testing of the Wastewater System

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