

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Smoke Testing

## **What is smoke testing and why is the Village doing it?**

*Smoke testing is a process to help identify defects and points of potential cross-connection (downspouts, storm sewers, sump pumps) to the sanitary sewer system. The process involves pressurizing sewer mains with non-toxic, non-odorous, non-staining smoke. During testing, crews will be surveying the area and documenting locations where smoke appears.*

## **Who will be completing this testing?**

*The Village's contractor for this work is Baxter & Woodman.*

## **How will I be notified regarding when the testing begins?**

*Two to three days before the testing, Baxter & Woodman will place pink door tags on the front door of homes within the testing area. The day before testing, the Village will issue a Notify Me message to the residents who scribed to the service. To sign up for Notify Me, please visit [www.villageoflombard.org/notifyme](http://www.villageoflombard.org/notifyme).*

## **What should I expect during testing?**

*During testing, you may see smoke rising out of sanitary sewer manholes, the vent stacks (chimneys) of buildings, or the ground. Crew members may need to utilize utility easements on your property to properly document areas where smoke is found. All crew members will have identification badges and will be wearing company uniforms. A Village staff member will also be available to help answer questions.*

## **What does the smoke look like?**



*A video that gives an overview of the smoke testing process (courtesy of the Charleston Water System) can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8Clh7zId2A>*

## **Do I need to be home during testing?**

*No. However, there is a possibility that smoke may enter your home through a dry sewer drain trap. To reduce the chance of this happening, after receipt of the pink door tag, pour one (1) gallon of water down each of your drains, especially those drains in your basement. This will help seal the drain traps so the smoke does not enter. If you are concerned that smoke in your home may not be related to smoke testing, call the Fire Department at 9-1-1.*

*If someone in your household has a respiratory problem or may become alarmed or confused by the smoke testing process, notify the Village of Lombard's Public Works Department as soon as possible at 630.620.5740 or [publicworks@villageoflombard.org](mailto:publicworks@villageoflombard.org).*