



NOTIFICATION OF SMOKE TESTING

This letter is to notify you that the City of North Miami is conducting a sanitary sewer evaluation program designed to eliminate groundwater and stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system in your area. A **Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing** will be performed over the next 3 weeks.

Smoke testing is a commonly used procedure; it consists of placing a blower on top of a sanitary sewer manhole and blowing non-toxic smoke through the pipes to locate defects that would allow groundwater and stormwater to enter the sewer system. The smoke to be used is specifically manufactured for this purpose, therefore, it is **non-toxic, non-staining, it leaves no residue, has no effect on plant or animal life, and will not create a fire.**

The tests will be conducted by **300 Engineering Group / Ardurra Group, Inc.**, a local engineering firm. Clearly marked vehicles and uniformed crew members will be available onsite to answer questions. The crew may need to walk around the front and back of the property to look for signs of smoke coming from drains, down spouts, or the ground.

The Miami-Dade Fire Department and the City of North Miami Police Department have been made aware of the smoke testing project areas and schedules. Reminder notices will be given to residents at least 24 to 48 hours prior to work where the testing will be conducted. During testing, neighbors may see smoke coming out of storm catch basins or the ground, which could indicate broken manholes, improper connections, damaged or missing clean-out caps, or cracked pipes. Please note that there is a potential for smoke to enter a property that has plumbing fixtures not properly trapped from the sanitary system. Please perform the following tasks to prevent smoke from entering your home or business.

- Make sure all drain traps and plumbing fixtures have water in them. Fill seldom used drains (such as floor drains, garage sinks, etc.) with water by running the faucet for 30 to 60 seconds or filling the drain with approximately 3 cups of water.
- Prepare drains as soon as you receive this smoke testing notice, this only needs to be done once before testing begins.
- Smoke should not enter your home; however, if it does, it could be an indication of a defect in your plumbing system. This defect could allow sewer gases to enter your home, which is a potential health hazard. Corrections of such defects are the responsibility of the property owner, and a licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the proper corrections are made. If smoke enters your home or building, please notify the field technicians who are conducting the test.

This important program will help decrease the inflow and infiltration into the wastewater system, which will reduce the risk of wastewater overflows in neighborhoods and lower the cost of unneeded groundwater and stormwater treatment. We appreciate your patience and understanding; we will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience or disruption this procedure may have on you. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding smoke testing, please contact the **City of North Miami Department of Public Works** at (305) 895 9838.

Sincerely,

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