



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Engineering and Infrastructure

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Sewer Smoke Testing Oct. 6 – 27 In Kelly Hills/Slocomb Area

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Public Utilities will conduct smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system in the Kelly Hills/Slocomb Road area Oct. 6 through Oct. 27. Smoke testing will help determine areas of the sewer system that need updating.

Public Utilities will mail notices to all homes and buildings in the area being smoke tested two weeks in advance. The department has already started mailing notices. Public Utilities is a division of the county's Engineering and Infrastructure Department. County employees conducting the testing carry ID badges and use vehicles with proper signage for easy recognition. A smoke testing schedule will also be posted on the Public Utilities website at co.cumberland.nc.us/public_utilities.aspx.

Public Utilities crews will pump smoke into sanitary sewer manholes and observe any points where smoke exits. The smoke is a harmless colored vapor that has no odor and disappears in a few minutes. It is normal for smoke to exit manholes and the sewer stack at the tops of houses. Smoke entering your home is an indication of faulty plumbing in the home, which may allow sewer gas or odors to get in.

The purpose of smoke testing is to find potential points of inflow and infiltration in the sanitary sewer system. Smoke testing can help locate improper connections and areas where unwanted water is entering the system. If a problem is found, Cumberland County will formulate necessary improvements to fix it.

Residents who receive a notice that smoke testing will take place can prepare by checking to see that all plumbing drain traps are filled with water to prevent the smoke from entering the building. Run the faucet for 30-60 seconds or pour about three cups of water in floor and sink drains, filling the traps. Make sure to check seldom used floor drains and plumbing fixtures in your home.

Homeowners do not need to be home and at no time will field crews need to enter the residence. Field inspectors will be documenting the testing, taking photos and measuring distances so that the defects may be found at a later date and repaired.

For more information, contact the Public Utilities Division at 910-678-7682. The office is in the Historic Courthouse, 130 Gillespie St., Fayetteville.

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