

**Commissioner** John O'Grady • **Commissioner** Paula Brooks • **Commissioner** Marilyn Brown  
President

**Department of Sanitary Engineering**  
Stephen A. Renner, Director

## NOTICE OF SEWER SMOKE TESTING

Dear Owner/Resident:

Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is conducting an area-wide Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) to assess the sanitary sewer system serving Franklin County customers. The County has contracted with local engineering firm Brown and Caldwell to perform this evaluation. This will include field evaluations to assess the condition of these critical underground pipes and a desktop analysis of the findings which include mapping, hydraulic modeling and assigning a condition rating. This work will help identify where future improvements may be needed to provide the most efficient collection and transport of wastewater from your home or business to the wastewater treatment plant for processing and safe return to the environment.

**Brown and Caldwell crews will be conducting smoke testing in your neighborhood starting Monday August 8, 2016. They will inject a harmless, simulated smoke into the Franklin County sewer system to find leaks and faulty connections which may need repair.**

All public safety authorities have been properly notified of this testing. You may see simulated gray smoke coming from manhole covers, storm drains, roof vents and building foundations. The smoke should not enter your home if it is properly plumbed and fixture traps contain water. *To minimize the likelihood of smoke entering your home, run water faucets for a few seconds in unused sinks, tubs and drains to fill fixture traps. Also, fill any basement floor drains with water.*

There is no danger of fire or explosion of sewer gas with the smoke testing process. Simulated smoke is non-toxic and non-irritating to the throat and eyes. Further, simulated smoke will NOT harm pets or plants, drapes, stain walls or furniture, or leave any residue.

Smoke is NOT expected to enter your premises. If it should, please observe the following:

1. DO NOT become alarmed and call the authorities. This smoke is gray and does not smell like a fire.
2. Open doors and windows to ventilate your premises. The smoke should clear out rapidly once the building is vented.
3. Please call the phone number below and indicate your address.

**Please also notify us before we conduct the testing under any of the following situations:**

- Elderly persons who will be alone and might be alarmed or confused if they see smoke, or will be sleeping during the testing hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the date of the test.
- Any persons with respiratory problems or disabilities who will be in the building.
- Dogs, birds or other pets that will be confined alone in laundry or bathroom areas.

For more information and/or a Material Safety Data Sheet on the Sewer System Evaluation Study, please contact Elizabeth Ehret of Brown and Caldwell at 614.410.6144 or visit [cleanwater.franklincountyohio.gov](http://cleanwater.franklincountyohio.gov).

Respectfully,

K. Marie Strandwitz, PE  
Project Manager