

TOWNSHIP OF
PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS



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Sewer Utility

An Important Message to Lake Hiawatha Residents

Beginning this summer Parsippany-Troy Hills wastewater crews will conduct smoke testing of sanitary sewers located in the Lake Hiawatha area of our sewer system. The smoke testing will help locate any sewer line breaks or defects and also identify locations where storm water unnecessarily enters the sanitary sewer system. Almost one third of the water treated at the wastewater treatment plant is clean ground water or rain water and should not have entered the wastewater flow in the Township's sewer collection system. It has been determined through past studies that most of this infiltration is coming from the lake Hiawatha community. This causes the treatment plant's operating expenses to increase considerably.

Township crews will select areas of the Lake Hiawatha community for this testing and will notify residents through a reverse 911 call and an informational brochure which will be left in your mailbox just before the testing is to commence. During smoke testing, neighborhoods might notice smoke coming from eaves, yard drains, and catch basins or directly out of the ground indicating cracked or broken piping or poor connections. The smoke is non-toxic, non-staining and harmless to people, plants and animals. There is no fire hazard associated with the smoke testing.

When you receive a phone call about the testing program please make sure you have put water down all or your fixtures to make sure all the traps in the drain piping have water in them. This water acts like a seal stopping the smoke from entering a properly constructed piping system.

On rare occasions, the smoke may enter the house through faulty drains or improper traps. The existence of this smoke might mean that sewer gas is also entering the home. Residents who observe these conditions are encouraged to contact the crews working in the area. If the smoke is a result of the testing, a wastewater crew member will, with the permission of the homeowner, visit the home to help identify where the entry point is. While we cannot repair piping on private property, the Township representative will suggest courses of action for you to consider.

Smoke testing in this area of the township is expected to be completed by spring next year.

For questions or further information regarding the smoke testing program, please contact the Wastewater Treatment Plant and ask for Ms. Joanne Mancuso or Mr. Frank Lorito at (973) 428-7593. A Material Safety Data Sheet is available on the smoke testing chemical as well as a pamphlet on the Smoke Testing Process.

This program is being conducted to aid the Township in reducing operating costs by first locating and eventually eliminating as much clean water from entering the sewer system as possible.