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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Smoke Testing of Sanitary Sewer Planned for Oct. 16

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Through the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Reduction Program, the City of Dubuque Engineering Department will conduct smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system in the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 16. Smoke testing will be conducted in the area along Peru Road from Aerostar Drive to Hawkeye Drive as well as Liberty Avenue and Mya Rose Court.

Engineering and public works departments continue to inspect the sanitary sewer system for signs of excessive wear and tear, as well as for structural defects and storm water pipeline cross connections. An inspection crew will travel throughout the campus, lifting manhole lids, installing and placing testing equipment, to observe and record the smoke testing.

Smoke testing consists of introducing non-toxic smoke into sanitary sewer pipe sections under moderate pressure. Crews will document where the smoke is emitted and prioritize needed repairs. Since the smoke will be placed into the sewer system that is connected to homes, residents are encouraged to pour tap water into their floor drains and sinks. This small amount of water creates a seal that keeps the smoke out of the homes. Residents do not need to be present during smoke testing.

Dry traps, drains without traps, and other plumbing defects will allow the smoke to enter the dwelling connected to the sewer line that is being tested. The smoke is non-toxic, leaves no residue, and creates no fire hazard. If a resident is present and smoke enters the house or building, please report all locations to the work crews (563-513-8966) and open a window to allow the smoke to dissipate. It may also be desirable to contact a plumber if the smoke enters the house in a manner other than a dry drain trap.

The goal of the I&I Reduction Program is to reduce the amount of rainwater and groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer system during wet weather. Allowing these clean water connections causes sanitary sewer back-ups into basements, overflows into creeks and wetlands, and increased operating costs to

process the water at the Water and Resource Recovery Center. Removing this clean water will reduce collection and treatment costs, allow the sanitary sewer system to work more effectively, allow the city to optimize the performance of the existing pipe system and treatment, and minimize sanitary sewer backups into basements.

For more information on the I&I Reduction Program and sanitary sewer smoke testing, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/iandi](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/iandi) or call the I&I information line at 563-690-6113.

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