



CONTACT:
Denise Ihrig, Environmental Engineer
563-690-6034
DIhrig@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org/ii

NEWS RELEASE

October 11, 2016 – For Immediate Release

Smoke Testing of Sanitary Sewer Planned for Hill and Fifth Streets

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque 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 through the City's Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Reduction Program. As part of these efforts, the engineering department will be conducting smoke testing in a targeted area on Thursday, Oct. 13.

Smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system will be conducted in the area bounded approximately by Caledonia Place, and Hill and West Seventh streets to the north, West Fifth and Summit streets to the east, Burch and Hill streets to the south, and Winona and Roberts streets to the west. (See attached map.) An inspection crew will travel throughout the neighborhood, lifting manhole lids, deploying testing equipment, and entering yards to observe and record the results of smoke testing.

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 Resource and 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.

Smoke testing consists of introducing non-toxic smoke into sanitary sewer pipe sections under moderate pressure. The 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.

For more information on the I&I Reduction Program and sanitary sewer smoke testing, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/ii or call the I&I information line at 563-690-6113.

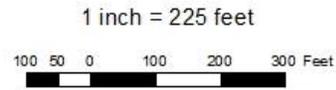
#

Hill at 5th Street Smoke Testing

Recheck of Completed work



DISCLAIMER: This information was compiled using the Dubuque Area Geographic Information System (DAGIS), which includes data created by both the City of Dubuque and Dubuque County. It is understood that, while the City of Dubuque and participating agencies utilized the most current and accurate information available, DAGIS and its suppliers do not warrant the accuracy or currency of the information or data contained herein. The City and participating agencies shall not be held liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential, punitive, or special damages, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable, arising out of the authorized or unauthorized use of this data or the inability to use this data or out of any breach of warranty whatsoever.



Map Prepared by:
City of Dubuque
Engineering Division
50 West 13th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Phone: (563) 589-4270
Fax: (563) 589-4205

Dubuque County Assessor, City of Dubuque Assessor