



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Worcester County Government ♦ Phone (410) 632-1194 ♦ Fax (410) 632-3131

TO: Local Media
FROM: Worcester County Commissioners
DATE: May 12, 2025
FOR RELEASE: Immediately
TOPIC: Sewer System Smoke Testing May 14-20 in Ocean Pines
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Sewer System Smoke Testing May 14 – 20 in Ocean Pines

Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater (WWW) Division will conduct smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system from May 14 – 20, 2025. Streets to be included are Chatham Ct, Potomac Ave, Central Parke E, Arcadia Ct, Freeport Ln, Fort Sumter S, Federal Hill, Long Point Ct, Carnegie Place, Hatteras St, Points Reach, Bluewater Ct, Parkside Cir, Pine Forest Dr, Tidewater Cove, Port Arthur Ct, Charleston Rd, Piedmont Ct, and Beaumont Ct.

This study will involve opening and entering manholes in the streets and public utility easements to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke will also reveal where storm and other surface water enters the sewer system.

A special, non-toxic smoke will be used in these tests. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effect on plant or animal life. The smoke is visible and has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor that should last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in homes and buildings are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter these facilities in the following instances:

- Vents connected to a building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing.
- Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

The smoke test can reveal the presence, if any, of sewer gas, which can be dangerous and a health risk to occupants. In the event that smoke enters your home or business, please contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in your area or by contacting WWW at 410-641-5251, Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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