



NOTIFICATION OF SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

Dear Resident,

During heavy rainfall events, Geauga County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) experiences excessive flows within our sanitary sewer collection systems, overwhelming our wastewater treatment plants. As a result of these excessive flows, and as part of our countywide inflow & infiltration (I&I) program, GCDWR will be conducting smoke-testing of the sanitary sewer collection system in the Canyon Lakes service area. This process will identify possible sources of I&I in your neighborhood's sanitary sewer collection system.

You are encouraged to permanently disconnect or repair any known illegal connections before the smoke testing is performed. Any identified sources of I&I or clear water, like downspouts, sump pump or yard drain connections must be properly disconnected. Improperly sealed clean-outs will be required to be repaired or replaced. If you need information on identifying or properly disconnecting sources of inflow, contact our office at 440-279-1970 for assistance.

If during the process your property is identified as a potential source of I&I requiring further actions, we will contact you by US Mail directly.

To ensure the best results, smoke testing must be conducted during sunny, dry, wind free weather.

**Weather permitting, we anticipate performing Canyon Lakes smoke testing
August 5-21, 2026.**

To make you aware of the exact date work will be performed in your immediate area, signs will be erected before the actual testing takes place. The planned itinerary is attached.

Have questions? Please visit our website <https://gcdwr.org>. Click on "Smoke Testing" Banner at the top of the web page. If you would like a paper copy of the FAQ or you require additional information, please contact our office at 440-279-1970 or email infowr@geauga.oh.gov

Respectfully,

Ronnie Walker
Pre-Treatment Coordinator
12611 Ravenwood Dr., Suite 390
Chardon, Ohio 44024
Phone: 440-279-1976

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

www.gcdwr.org • 440-279-1970 • Fax: 440-285-9549 • infowr@geauga.oh.gov
12611 Ravenwood Drive • Suite 390 • Chardon, Ohio 44024-9340



IMPORTANT

You MUST ensure all unused plumbing devices have water in the traps.

Smoke testing of sanitary sewers is a common practice to identify potential sources of ground water entering the Sanitary Sewer System. The “Liquid Smoke” used to conduct the test is not flammable. It is injected into the sewer system through manholes using specially designed blowers. **Smoke should not enter a home with properly constructed plumbing drain lines.**

On occasion, smoke may enter a home through dry sewer traps where the water has naturally evaporated. This would be drains in seldomly used bathrooms or floor drains in basements. **Several days before the testing occurs, you should run water in all drains that are not frequently used.** This includes seldomly used bathtubs, showers, sinks and floor drains in your home. Pay special attention to any drains around your HVAC system which are often overlooked.

In the event smoke enters your home, realize it is not harmful to you or your pets. It will not stain clothes, drapes, furniture or walls. It will dissipate very quickly by opening windows and doors and will not leave an odor.

If smoke enters your home, notify Water Resource Staff that will be onsite and easily identifiable. They can assist in identifying the plumbing issue.

Please feel free to contact Water Resources with any questions prior to the planned testing date: **August 5-21, 2026**

Website: <https://gcdwr.org> (Click on the Smoke Testing Banner)

Email: infowr@geauga.oh.gov

Phone: [440-279-2970](tel:440-279-2970)

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



Planned Itinerary for Canyon Lakes Smoke Testing 8/5/2026-8/21/2026

Silica Rdg, Poplar Way and Quarry Cir we completed in 2025

Crescent Rdg and Hughs Way will be done in 2027

Area 1. Canyon Ridge, from round-about in.

Area 2. Buckthorn Dr., Hawksview Ln., Old Tannery Trl and Owls Hollow

Area 3. Lakesedge Trl, Red Fox Trl, Rambling Creek Trl and Deepview Dr.

Area 4. Coldwater Trl, Tall Tree Trl, Beech Grove Trl, Wildoak Pl. and Trails End

Area 5. Faraway Trl, Lookout Dr., Morning View Ct. Forest Ridge and Creek View Trl

Area 6. Villa Rdg, Gates Landing Dr and Edwards Landing Dr

Rain, strong wind or heavily clouded days will postpone the actual date of smoke testing, but not the general itinerary.

Each area is expected to take 1-2 days to complete.

Smoke testing signage will be erected at the entrances to Canyon Lakes subdivision on Chagrin Rd and Chagrin River Rd several days before the start date of the project and will remain for the duration of the project. Once those signs are removed, you will know the project is over.

Mobile Smoke Testing signage will follow the work. Expect to see the sign in your area identifying the smoke testing is being performed.

At the end of each day, the mobile Smoke Testing sign will be moved and left identifying the planned area for the next day's Smoke Testing activity.

Please contact Water Resources with any questions.

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