



NOTIFICATION OF SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

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 sewer collection system in the Knolls Way Area. This process will identify possible sources of I&I in your neighborhood's 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.

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

**Weather permitting, we anticipate performing Knolls Way smoke testing
The week of August 24-28, 2026.**

To make you aware of the exact date work will be performed in your immediate area, signs will be erected in the area several days before the actual testing takes place. The work should be completed in 2 days.

Have questions? Please visit our website <https://gcdwr.org>. Click on the "Smoke Testing". banner at the top of the web page. If 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 like 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 close, drapes, furniture or walls. It will dissipate very quickly by open windows and doors.

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:

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

Email: infowr@geauga.oh.gov

Phone: 440-279-2970

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

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