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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

The City's public works department will be doing smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system Tuesday and Wednesday in the Oak Valley subdivision. This is the second smoke testing in Oak Valley this month.

The area that will be tested July 2-3 includes Parkridge from Springhill to the drainage ditch behind Hollow Creek; Springhill from Parkridge to Springhill Court; Black Oak from Hollow Creek to Springhill; Live Oak from Hollow Creek to Springhill; all of Aspen Court; Hollow Creek from Black Oak to Wood Duck Court (but they will not be smoke testing Wood Duck Court); and the drainage ditch behind Hollow Creek from Parkridge to Wood Duck Court. See map, <http://tinyurl.com/ndgyba6>.

The City will be conducting smoke testing throughout the city over the next few months. The goal is to identify areas of the wastewater collection system that need repairs or maintenance. Testing may also identify areas on private property where repairs are needed such as roof drains that may be connected to the sanitary sewer which will need to be disconnected, damaged service lines, and faulty or failing connections inside the home or business.

City workers use a forced air blower to put smoke into the sanitary sewer collection system. The sanitary sewer lines are plugged in segments to isolate the smoke. That allows the blower to develop enough pressure to force the smoke to escape through any openings or defects in the system.

The smoke used for testing is non-toxic, creates no fire hazard, and leaves no residue. It has a light odor, similar to paper burning and may cause minor throat irritation if inhaled. People who have respiratory conditions such as emphysema, asthma or bronchitis should be careful when exposed to any kind of smoke.

Any indication of odor or smoke inside your residence or business is an indication that there are possible plumbing problems that may allow gases or odors from the sewer to enter. If smoke does enter your home or business, call the City's Public Works department at 817-426-9830 and tell the call taker that smoke is entering your building. Give your name, address and phone number.

The City recommends that at least one gallon of water be poured into each drain in your home or business to insure that all infrequently used drains have the proper amount of water in them to operate properly.