



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

# NOTICE OF UPCOMING WORK

July 3, 2025

## SEWER INSPECTIONS WITH NON-TOXIC SMOKE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Seattle Public Utilities is using a testing method called “smoke testing” to find sewer leaks and/or pipe connection problems. A contractor, Pro-Vac, will be in your neighborhood blowing a colorless water vapor or “smoke” into sewer pipes via maintenance holes; the “smoke” is non-toxic and non-staining but may have a distinctive odor. “Smoke” or its odor is not anticipated to come into your house or building if your plumbing is in good working order and your “p-traps” (the U-shaped pipes under each drain) are filled with water.

### SCHEDULE

This work is scheduled for late July through end of August. You will receive a door hanger notice 24- to 48-hours before the inspection. Prior to the testing, consider running water for 30 seconds in all your sinks, baths, and showers and pouring water in exposed floor drains.

### LOCATION

The testing uses maintenance holes within the public right-of-way throughout the Arbor Heights Neighborhood. The “smoke” may travel up to 1,500 feet within the sewer pipe.

### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Homes and businesses will continue to receive normal sewer services during the inspection.

- You may see or smell the “smoke” coming from maintenance holes in the street or right-of-way, sewer vents from roofs or coming out of the ground. This is normal and you do not need to do anything. You may talk with the on-site workers conducting the inspections if you have questions.
- If you see or smell “smoke” in your house or building, open doors or windows to increase ventilation. The vapor should clear within a few minutes.
- If smoke continues to remain in your building for more than 5 minutes, talk with the field representatives or on-site workers conducting the inspections. You may also contact SPU’s emergency Operations Response Center (ORC) at (206) 386-1800.

“Smoke” may have entered your building due to issues with your building’s sewer pipe vents and/or p-traps under sinks, tubs or other drains. If “smoke” came into your building that did not stop when you put water in a drain, please consider contacting a plumber to investigate possible issues with your plumbing.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kenny Moffat, Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 615-1013 or [kenny.moffat@seattle.gov](mailto:kenny.moffat@seattle.gov)

For interpretation services, please call: (206) 615-1013

如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼 (206) 615-1013

통역 서비스를 원하시면 (206) 615-1013

으로전화하세요

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka (206) 615-1013

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al (206) 615-1013

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa (206) 615-1013

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi (206) 615-1013

ከትርጉም አገልግሎት፣ አባክዎን (206) 615-1013 ይደውሉ