



Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing Begins Monday

Date: Friday, July 9, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria is advising residents and businesses located in the Fairfield, Rockland, Gonzales, Fernwood, South Jubilee, Harris Green and North Park neighborhoods, not to be alarmed should they see smoke coming out of their roof pipes over the next ten weeks. The smoke is part of an evaluation program to determine whether surface rainwater or groundwater is entering the City's sanitary sewer system.

Known as "smoke testing", a non-toxic, visible mist, similar to that used in movies, is blown into sewer pipes to identify and locate any possible breaks, defects or improper connections. As the smoke travels through the sanitary sewer system, it is forced through any openings, allowing field crews to observe and record the smoke as it exits the system. These exit points indicate where repairs and improvements are needed. The smoke typically appears from rooftop sewer vents, downspouts, catch basins or yard drains.

Reducing surface and groundwater from entering the sanitary sewer system helps to diminish the possibility of sewer backups during heavy rainfalls from mains that aren't intended to carry these water sources. Smoke testing is a safe, efficient and cost effective way to identify and locate breaks, leaves no residue and is not a fire hazard.

Starting Monday, Coast Hydrovac of Lake Cowichan, BC, will begin to smoke test parts of the sanitary sewer system in Fairfield, followed by Rockland, Gonzales, Fernwood, South Jubilee, Harris Green and North Park. Weather permitting, the smoke testing will be completed within the next ten weeks.

Minimal disruption to the travelling public can be expected during the work period and every effort will be made to keep residents and businesses in these areas informed. The Victoria Fire Department has been notified of the work.

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For More Information:

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