Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

Why Smoke Test?

Smoke testing is a process used by **Davie County** to identify issues with the sewer system. Non-toxic smoke is blown into manholes and crews observe areas where smoke escapes identifying broken manholes, cracked lines, and connections to the stormwater system.
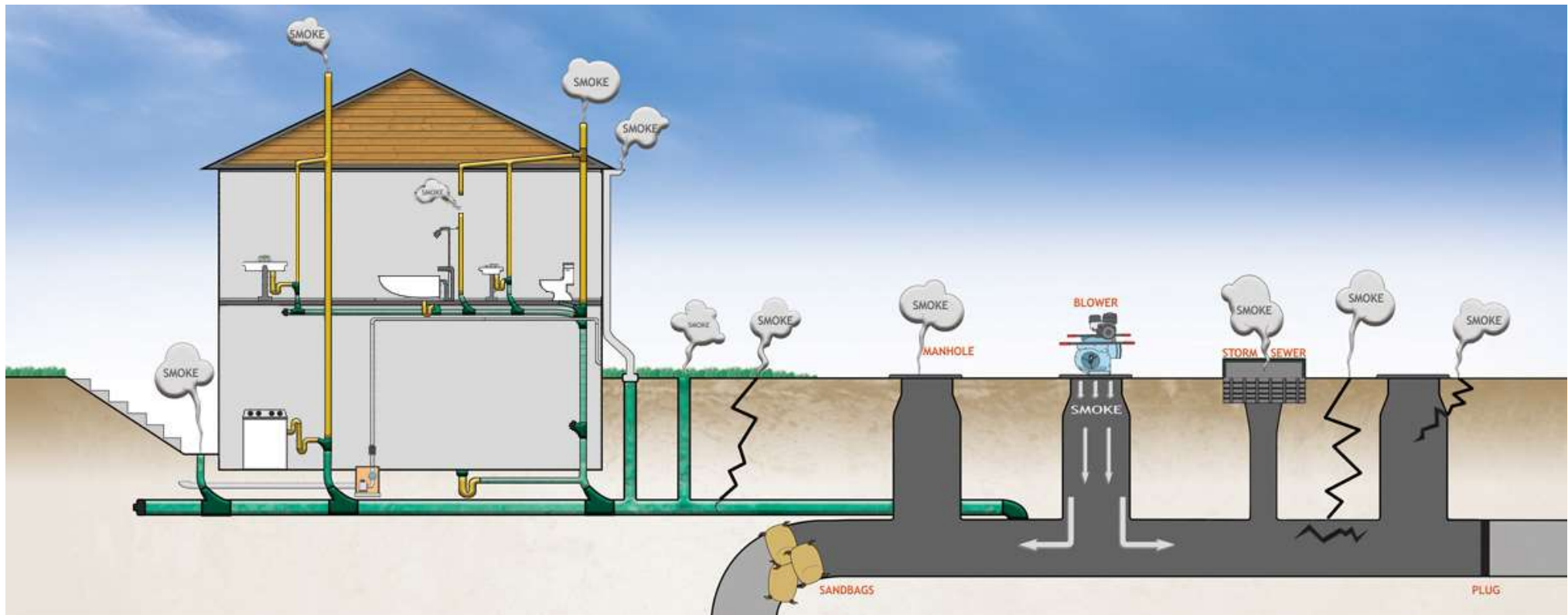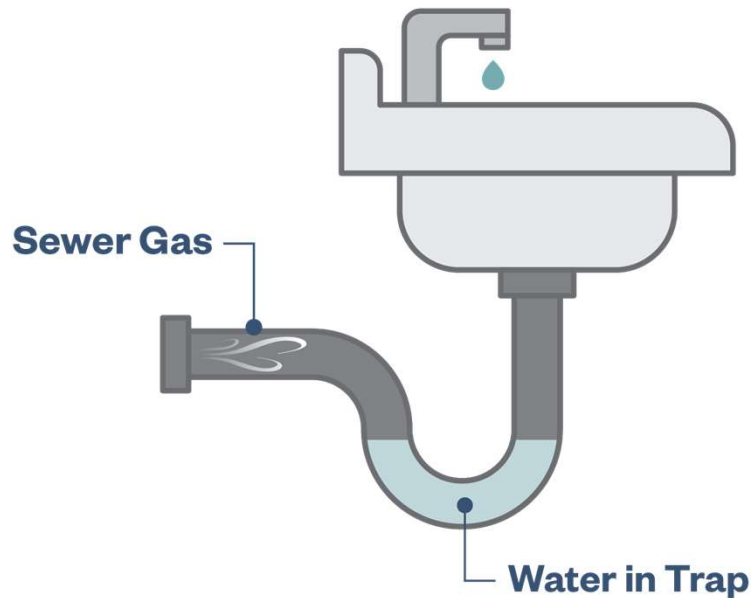
How Does Smoke Testing Work?

Crews use a blower to push air and artificial, non-toxic, white smoke through a section of the sanitary sewer. Smoke should escape from manholes and building roof vents along the section of sewer. The crews will take note of smoke escaping through the ground or cracks in the street as those indicate where defects are present.

How Does Smoke Testing Work?
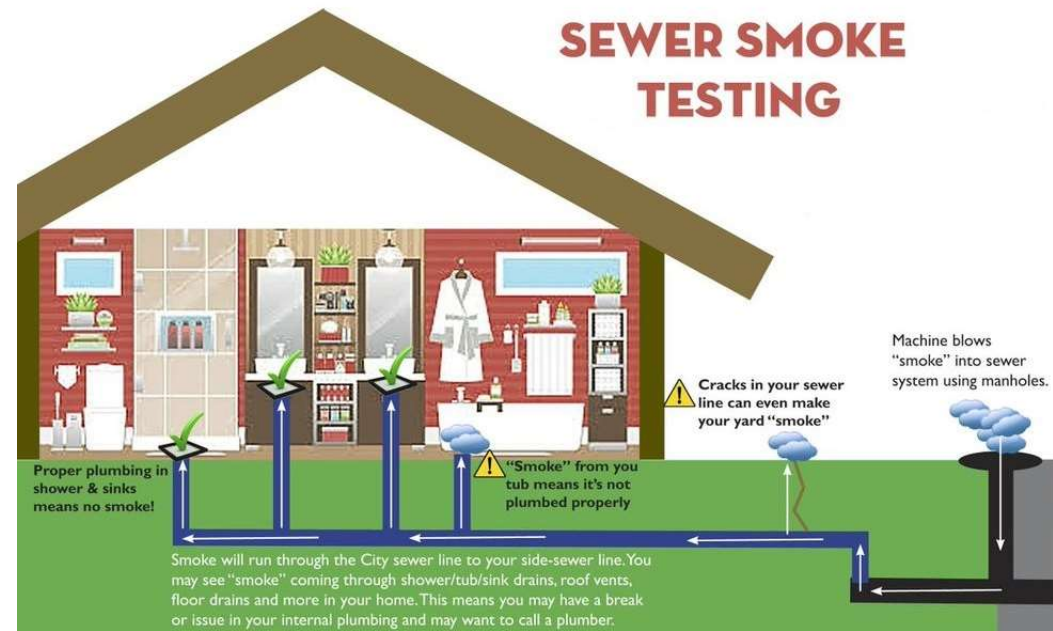
Will Smoke Enter my Home or Building?

Water in traps for sinks, toilets, and drains should stop the smoke from entering a home or building. If you have bathrooms or drains that are rarely used, the water in the trap may have evaporated. Run water ahead of the smoke testing to refill the trap.
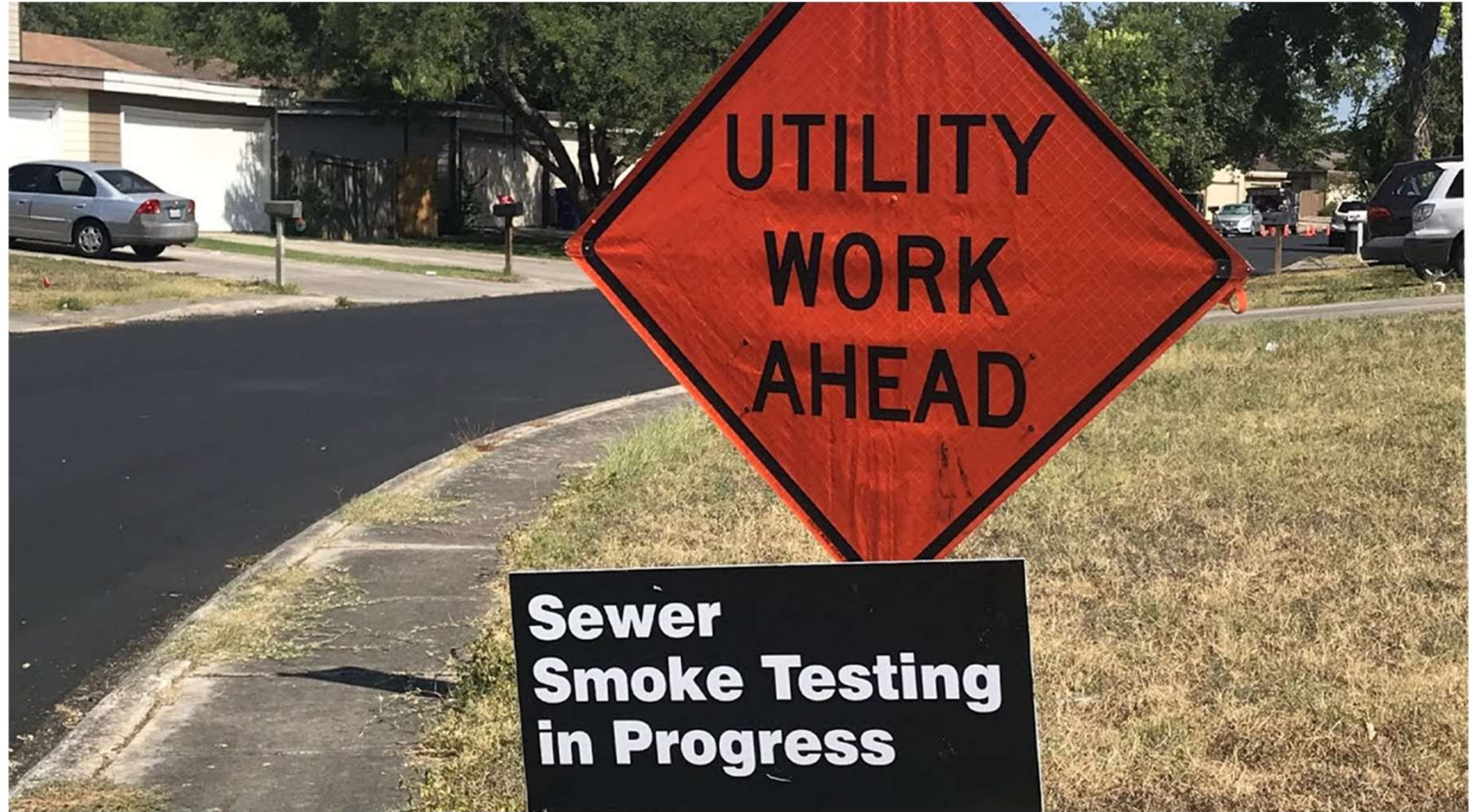
Is the Smoke Hazardous?

No, the smoke used during testing is not harmful or flammable and will not stain your clothes or furniture. While the smoke is not considered harmful, it is recommended to avoid prolonged periods of exposure. If smoke does get into your house, open the windows to allow ventilation, exit the building, and notify city personnel.

SEWER SMOKE TESTING

Machine blows "smoke" into sewer system using manholes.

Cracks in your sewer line can even make your yard "smoke"

"Smoke" from you tub means it's not plumbed properly

Proper plumbing in shower & sinks means no smoke!

Smoke will run through the City sewer line to your side-sewer line. You may see "smoke" coming through shower/tub/sink drains, roof vents, floor drains and more in your home. This means you may have a break or issue in your internal plumbing and may want to call a plumber.

How will I know when Smoke Testing Begins?

Door Hangers

Notices will be hung on doors in neighborhoods that will be in the testing area. The notice will include the information in this presentation, contact information for city officials and project managers, and additional safety instructions.