



# NEWS Release

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**City of Rockport · 2751 SH 35N Bypass · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 11, 2021

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## **CITY TO CONDUCT SMOKE TESTING OF SEWER LINES**

Beginning Thursday, June 17, 2021, and continuing for the next few weeks, inspection crews with Pipeline Analysis will be conducting a physical survey of the City's wastewater collection system in the Basin 1 area. Basin 1 includes parts of Old Rockport, the Rockport Cultural Arts District, and the area generally bounded by Business 35, Linden, Market, and Terry Streets.

Smoke testing identifies those areas where infiltration is occurring and improves the system by indicating where repairs need to be made. Each year sewer basins are tested to ensure that only sewer flows enter these lines. The process involves opening manholes in the streets and backyard utility easements and introducing non-toxic white smoke under pressure.

One of most common areas of infiltration occurs when there is an open sewer cleanout in a yard. Homeowners are required to have a capped cleanout on their property. Smoke may be seen in exiting vent pipes on the roofs of homes and where sewer line breaks are occurring. The smoke leaves no residue and creates no fire hazard. The smoke should not enter your home unless defective plumbing exists or drain traps may be dry.

(more)

Additionally, large rainfall events may force rainwater into the sewer system, where it ends up at the wastewater treatment plant. As a result, it impacts the viability of the system and requires significant, and costly, restoration.

For additional information, please call the Public Works Department at (361) 790-1160.

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