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

The area that will be tested July 24-25 includes Evandale from Cardinal Ridge to Hurst; Huebner Way from Hurst to Evandale; Cardinal Ridge from Oakcrest to Ridgecrest; Valley Terrace from Valley Ridge to Evandale; all of Royal Oak, Valley Ridge, Ridgecrest, and Garden Ridge; and Twin Oaks Court, Yaupon Court, Lone Oak Court, Clearview Court, Warbler Court, Oakcrest Court, Bluebird Court, Dylan Court, Little Ridge Court, Shady Tree Court, Oak Hill Court, Valley Terrace Circle, and the sewer line that runs to Bransom Elementary. See map, <http://tinyurl.com/k98aepq>.

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.