

Aspen Sanitation District Sewer Smoke Testing begins in the middle of May

ASPEN, CO-The Aspen Sanitation District and contract partner, TREKK Design Group, will begin testing the sanitary sewers around the Aspen Airport Business Center beginning Monday, May 11. This includes a process called “smoke testing” and residents are encouraged to [learn more about the process](#).

The project team will begin in the AABC on Monday, May 11 before moving to the neighborhoods in and around the Aspen golf course area including Cemetery Lane, Snowbunny, Red Butte Drive and the Aspen Meadows from May 12-14, and finishing on the east side of the city along the base of Smuggler mountain from Red Mountain Road to Mountain Valley the week of May 18-22. Testing taking place is weather dependent. Door hangers have been distributed throughout the project limits to alert residents of the process. The core of Aspen was completed in 2024.

Smoke testing helps find and locate defects or improper connections by blowing odorless and non-toxic smoke into the sewer. When there are no defects or improper connections, smoke will only be seen from the roof vents of each building that is connected to the sewer.

When there *are* direct improper connections, smoke will be seen where there are defects.

“We are often asked if you need to be home during the testing and the answer is no,” said Hamilton Tharp, Aspen Sanitation District Collection System Superintendent. *“Even if smoke enters your home during testing, and it shouldn’t with good plumbing, it will dissipate quickly. Our main goal for the smoke testing is to identify improperly connected storm water drains.”*

Since it can be unnerving to see smoke when it is not expected, crews have distributed door hangers that explain the process on buildings and homes in the testing areas. Local Police, Aspen Fire and Pitkin County dispatch officials have been notified so they are prepared if citizens who have forgotten about testing happen to become alarmed.

Anyone that would like to receive updates on the dates and locations of testing please provide us with your email for updates. To sign up for those alerts or with additional questions please contact the project at:

Project Hotline #: 970-457-0782

Project email: aspensewersmocketest@gmail.com

Website: <https://aspensan.com>

For additional information about sewer smoke testing, residents are encouraged to watch the following video at bit.ly/SmokeTesting.

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