

About Smoke Testing

Smoke testing is a way to find sections of sanitary sewer lines that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that allow rainwater into the sanitary sewers. The addition of this extra flow during storm events can overload lines, pumping stations, and ultimately the wastewater treatment plant, leading to sanitary sewer overflows, backups, or poor treatment efficiency at the plant.

During the test, City crews will send white smoke designed for this type of testing into the sanitary sewer system by blowing it into a manhole. It is then forced out through lines and cracks, openings, or plumbing vents on or near roof tops. The smoke is safe, odorless, non-toxic and non-staining.

If home plumbing systems are correctly installed and well-vented with working water traps, smoke should not enter the home. **Residents are advised to flush all toilets and run approximately one pint of water down sink drains to ensure water traps are full.**

Testing can provide a service to you, as a homeowner. If smoke enters your home, it will make you aware of deficiencies in your plumbing system. If smoke enters your home, please call (423)461-1645. Opening windows will help ventilate the smoke from the house. If you have indoor pets and you will not be home on testing days, you may want to consider leaving windows open. No smoke testing will occur on days with heavy rainfall.

If you have a family member with respiratory problems or someone who could become confused, please advise us by contacting (423)461-1645 prior to the schedule testing in your area.

Your area will be smoke tested

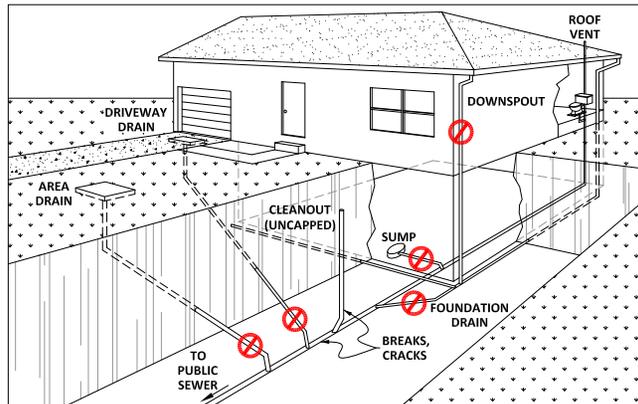
from _____

through _____

Remember ...

- This smoke is non-toxic.
- Run one pint of water through drains so that water traps are full. If smoke enters your home, it is an indication that you have a plumbing defect or dried-up drain traps.
- Call (423)461-1645 if smoke enters your home or if you have any questions. If you have any doubt about the origin of the smoke, call 911.
- Call (423)461-1645 if anyone will be in your home who has respiratory problems or is immobile.
- Consider leaving windows open if you have indoor pets and will not be home at the time of testing.

www.johnsoncitytn.org



Typical Private Service Defects



~ City of Johnson City ~

Water and Sewer Services

Smoke Testing Program

June-September 2016



The City of Johnson City Water and Sewer Services Department Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Program

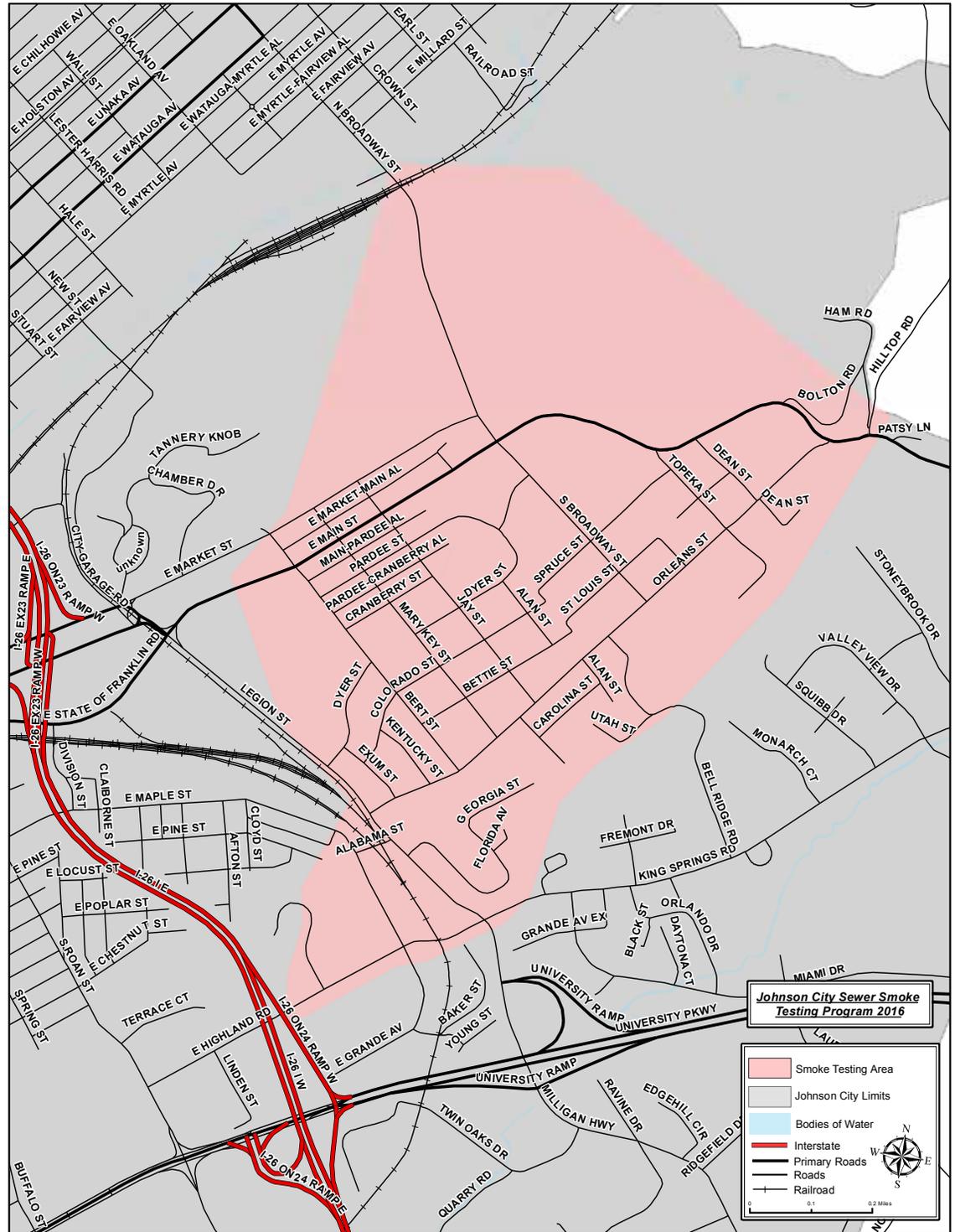
The City operates three wastewater treatment plants and more than 645 miles of wastewater collection system pipes. Our sanitary sewer system is designed to convey only sanitary waste from sinks, toilets, baths, and industrial processes. Stormwater and rainwater is transported to the nearest creek or river separately along curbs, ditches, and storm pipes. To ensure that our collection system operates within capacity and without problems, a number of programs are performed on a routine basis. These include:

- Internal TV or sonar inspection of 10 percent of the pipes annually
- Line cleaning of 10 percent of the pipes annually
- Cleaning of pumping station wetwells annually
- Line cleaning of problem areas monthly
- Root treatment of line segment with some degree of root intrusion
- Off right-of-way walking of line segments along low lying areas and creeks to visually inspect these remote areas

In addition, the Water and Sewer Services Department will begin smoke testing 10 percent of our wastewater collection system each year.

- Affected residents will be notified by door hangers one to two days before testing. Schedules will also be updated at www.johnsoncitytn.org.
- **No one should enter your home unless you request assistance.**
- Testing is funded under the Water and Sewer Services Department's budget, so there will be no additional charges.
- Area fire departments will be advised of testing locations.

2016 Smoke Testing Area



The City of Johnson City Water and Sewer Services Department Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Program

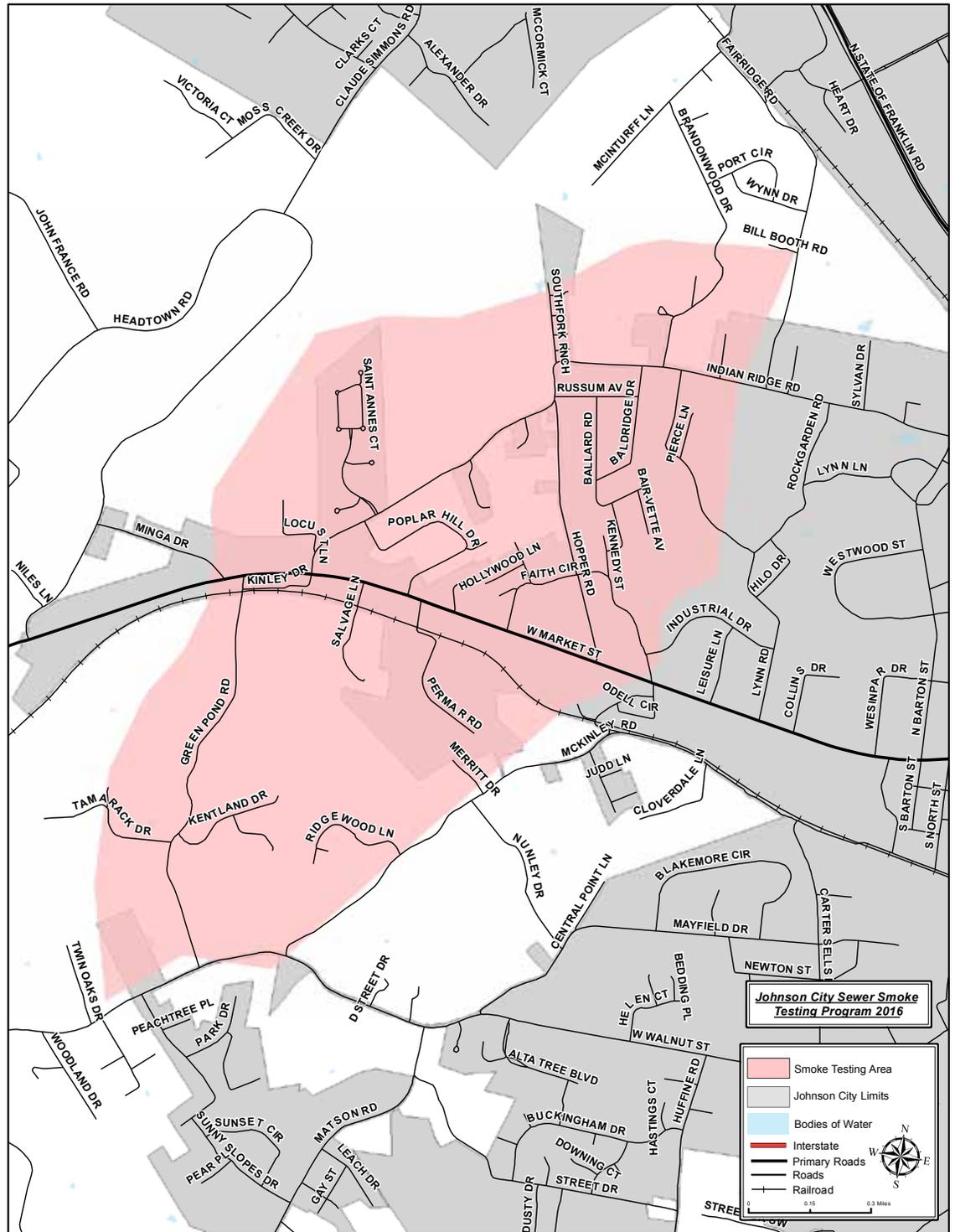
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