

Metropolitan Atlanta Municipalities: Smoke Testing

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| Project: | Smoke Testing Inspection |
| Clients: | DeKalb County, City of East Point, City of Atlanta, City of College Park |
| Location: | Throughout Metropolitan Atlanta |
| Completion: | Ongoing |



Smoke testing is most effective in sewers with diameters equal to or less than 18 inches and is not recommended during or immediately after rainfall events. Smoke testing on sewer systems is generally used for identifying:



- Potential sources of I&I;
- Illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system;
- Buried assets such as manholes;
- Defective sewer service laterals and cleanouts; and
- Defective plumbing systems.

The typical smoke testing procedure followed by MME included the following steps:

- Securing the work site in accordance with MME’s safety program at all times;
- Using the sanitary sewer system maps to locate the closest manholes upstream and downstream of area to be inspected;



- Inserting appropriately sized inflatable plugs into upstream pipes of the upstream manhole;
- Inserting appropriately sized inflatable plug into downstream pipe of the downstream manhole;
- Inflating plugs to seal off section of sewer system to be inspected;
- Installing blower into upstream manhole and ventilating the system for a minimum of fifteen minutes;
- Adding liquid non-toxic smoke to the blower system located at upstream manhole in the amounts recommended by the manufacturer; and
- Inspection of the test area for evidence any smoke emissions.

Since 2005, MME has smoke testing over 1,000,000 feet of sewers throughout metropolitan Atlanta.