



East Penn Township

Board of Supervisors

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Lehighton PA 18235

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Chairman John M. Strockoz | Vice-Chairman Gary Kuehner | William G. Schwab | Keith House | Dennis L. Pearson

OFFICIAL NOTICE

UPCOMING SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

Dear Resident or Property Owner,

Starting on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, and continuing through **Wednesday, June 17, 2026**, weather permitting, field crews will be conducting sanitary sewer smoke testing in your neighborhood. This testing is part of our infrastructure maintenance program. It helps us locate breaks, leaks, and illegal stormwater connections in the sewer system to prevent basement flooding and reduce wastewater treatment costs.

What is the "Smoke" and Is It Safe?

- **100% Non-Toxic:** The simulated "smoke" is actually a non-toxic, odorless mist.
- **No Fire Risk:** It is created without fire or heat and will not create a fire hazard.
- **Safe for Everyone:** It is completely safe for humans, pets, plants, clothing, and furniture.
- **Leaves No Residue:** It will not leave stains or residue in your home.

IMPORTANT: What You Need to Do BEFORE Testing Begins

To prevent the non-toxic smoke from entering your home through your plumbing, please complete this simple step by **the morning of Tuesday, June 16:**

- **Pour 3 cups of water** into every sink, bathtub, shower, and floor drain in your home—especially those in basements or rooms that are rarely used.
- *Why?* This water fills your plumbing "P-trap," creating a liquid barrier that blocks sewer smells and the test smoke from rising out of your drains.

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What to Expect During the Test

- You will see field crews wearing high-visibility vests walking through yards, easements, and streets.
- You will see large blower fans placed over street manholes.
- You will see smoke venting normally out of the plumbing stacks on neighborhood roofs. This is normal and shows the system is working properly.

What to Do If Smoke Enters Your Home

If smoke enters your home, **do not panic**. It indicates a plumbing defect *within your own property* (such as a dry trap, a cracked vent pipe, or a damaged toilet wax ring) that is also allowing potentially dangerous sewer gases into your living space.

1. **Open windows and doors** to clear the mist quickly. It will dissipate in a few minutes.
2. **Notify the field crews** working outside your home immediately, or call the Project Manager listed below. They will help you identify where the smoke is coming from.
3. **Contact a licensed plumber** to repair the defect, as interior plumbing maintenance is the homeowner's responsibility.

Schedule and Weather Delays

Testing will take place during standard daytime hours. Because rain or high winds make the test ineffective, operations will be postponed to the next dry business day if bad weather occurs.

Local police and fire departments have been fully notified of this schedule to prevent false alarms.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, health concerns, or special circumstances (such as bedridden individuals or pets that cannot be left alone), please contact:

- **Project Manager:** Mike Muffley, Hanover Engineering, at (570) 688-9550 ext. 1606
- **Township Contact:** Jillyan Sterling, Township Manager, at (570) 386-5735

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our Township's infrastructure safe and efficient.

Sincerely,

East Penn Township