

# Belmont to Conduct Tests on Sewers

The Belmont Office of Community Development will conduct tests on selected areas of the sanitary sewer system throughout Belmont. Approximately 200,000 feet of sewer will be smoke tested to locate direct and indirect connections such as catch basins, area drains, roof drains, broken sewer pipe and deteriorated pipe joints. Rainwater entering the sewer can contribute to sewer surcharging and backups.

**Property owners will receive a flyer in the mail if testing is to occur in their neighborhood.**

To conduct the tests, large fans will blow smoke through the sewers. During the procedure white smoke will be venting from holes in manhole covers located on the street and plumbing vent pipes located on or near roof surfaces. *This is normal and should not be cause for alarm.*

Smoke should not enter a building unless there is a defect in the plumbing. The resident should correct this defect because if smoke can enter the building, then odors that may develop in the sewer system at other times could also enter the building through the defective plumbing. Should smoke be detected within the building, *don't be alarmed*. Simply ventilate the home and report the presence of smoke to the people conducting the tests outside in the vicinity of your home, or call Valerie Doerrer of the Office of Community Development at 617-993-2657.

Testing will begin October 29, 2007 and will take approximately 5 to 6 weeks to complete, weather permitting.

A [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document is available for viewing at the Office of Community development website. Additional information will be available for viewing in the coming weeks.