

**CITY INITIATES FOG AND DYE PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY UNNECESSARY  
STORMWATER INFILTRATION IN SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM**

**Welland, ON** - The City of Welland is conducting an Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Study to identify sources of rain and groundwater entering sanitary sewers. City staff will then be able to develop a plan to reduce sources of rainwater inflow. The increased flow and volume from rainwater and groundwater fills the sanitary sewer system, reduces the capacity of the sanitary sewers which increases the risk of overloading the system, and risks basement flooding and overflow of untreated wastewater to the environment.

The City of Welland has contracted Civica Infrastructure to conduct fog and dye testing in the neighbourhood situated between Southworth Street and Coventry Road, and Simpson Street and Morningstar Avenue, beginning Tuesday, June 26, 2018. The program should take two to three weeks to complete. All work involved with the Fog and Dye Program will take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and will be conducted by Civica staff only. Although Civica staff will be conducting the fog and dye operation, they will not require entry to any homes; however, Civica staff do require access to the outside of homes listed in the program.

Civica is a reputable company that has worked with neighbouring municipalities on similar projects and has assisted cities with developing more sustainable and cost-effective best management practices. All residential homes and businesses within the fog and dye testing area will be notified with a hand delivered letter from Civica staff, and will also receive a door hanger one to five business days prior to the start date.

Fog and dye testing is non-hazardous to people, pets, and the environment. The fog test consists of inserting a harmless vapour into selected sewer manholes and pipes to essentially observe where the fog exits from the sanitary system. The fog primarily exits from nearby manholes and the sewer plumbing stacks from residential rooftops. Civica staff are most concerned with fog exiting from stormwater catch basins and residential downspouts because these drainage features can put an unnecessary demand on the sanitary sewer system. The fog used in the test is odourless, harmless to health, and disappears after a few minutes.

If a fog test is positive or inconclusive, Civica Infrastructure field staff will perform a dye test from the outside of the residence. Qualified Civica staff will pour an environmentally biodegradable water mixture with tracer dye into suspect inlets to visually confirm its connectivity to the sewer. Civica personnel can then provide advice on how to disconnect downspouts from city sanitary sewers and re-direct rainwater to yards.

“We want the public to know that the Fog and Dye Program is not harmful to their health. The solution dissipates quickly and it will not harm clothing, draperies, or furniture,” said Marvin Ingebrigtsen, Infrastructure Planning & Development Supervisor. “We’re implementing this program because it’s safe and will reduce, the risk of basement flooding, reduce the amount of untreated wastewater reaching the environment and the volume of wastewater treated at the wastewater treatment plant that the City of Welland taxpayers pay for.”

“We’ve had excellent cooperation from residents with this program,” said Matthew Malone, Project Manager at Civic Infrastructure. “We find the best way to perform the testing is keeping the neighbourhood informed and by being available to respond to inquiries.”

For more information on the City of Welland Fog and Dye Program visit [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca) or to engage with city staff on this project join the conversation on the city’s public engagement platform at [yourchannel.welland.ca](http://yourchannel.welland.ca). More information on this program and other initiatives can also be found on the City of Welland website at [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca).

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**Contact:**

Marvin Ingebrigtsen  
Infrastructure Planning & Development Supervisor  
Infrastructure & Development Services - Engineering  
905-735-1700 Ext. 2209  
[marvin.ingebrigtsen@welland.ca](mailto:marvin.ingebrigtsen@welland.ca)

Matthew Malone  
Project Manager  
Civica Infrastructure  
905-417-9792 Ext. 2307  
[mmalone@civi.ca](mailto:mmalone@civi.ca)