



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
PHONE – (707) 464-7229

Public Service Announcement
6 July 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEWER SMOKE TESTING NEAR NORTHCREST & SURROUNDING AREA

Starting on 13 July 2026, and continuing for about a month, the County of Del Norte will conduct specialized testing of its sewer system through non-toxic smoke testing.

Expect to see non-toxic “party” smoke in the air and coming from the ground and sewer systems. It is normal for smoke to exit through the vent pipes of each roof.

If smoke is entering your building, then there is likely a dry p-trap or improperly vented drain in your plumbing that should be repaired. Smoke entering your building means that sewer gasses also have the ability to enter your building. If your toilet gurgles or if bubbles are coming up through your toilet then you likely have a missing, plugged or improper vent for your toilet. Repairs/modifications should be made to your plumbing system and/or vent pipes.

Please prepare for this testing by making sure that you put water down each drain, toilet, sink, washer drain, shower, or any feature that drains to the sewer system in order to fill the associated p-trap with water. This will ensure that your p-traps are full which will prevent smoke from entering your residence or structures during our testing. Any of these features that are used regularly should already be full of water. Any drain that is rarely used is likely to be dry and needs to be filled.

During the testing there will be field technicians on-site. Individual residences will be notified a minimum of 24-hours prior to testing on their street. They will place a blower over a manhole and start blowing “smoke” into the system.

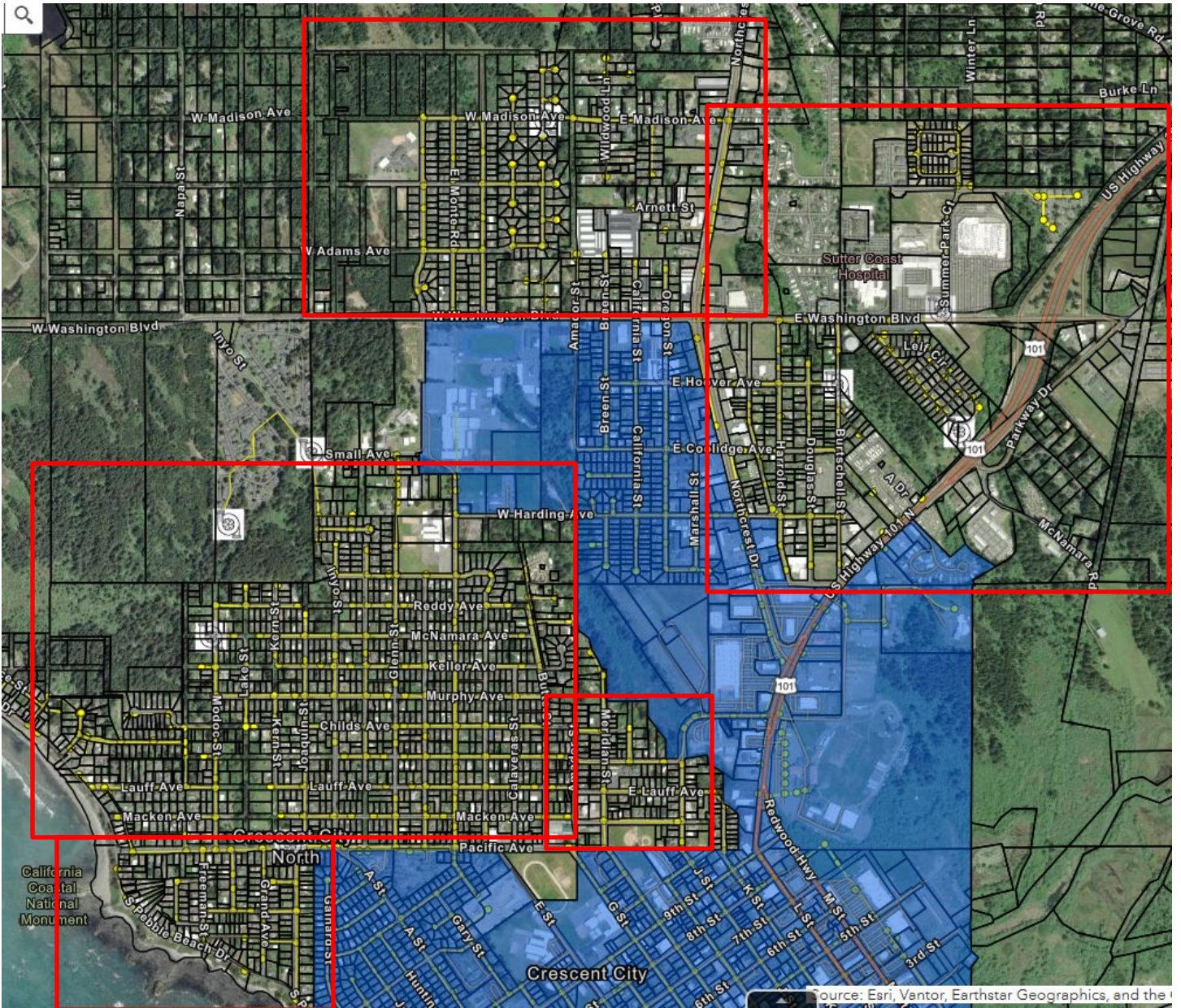
Our goal is to help protect the public and also to find broken pipes and improper connections that allow rainwater into the sewer system.

More information is available at <https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/engineeringsurveying> “CSA-1 Smoke Testing”.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Engineering and Surveying Division at (707) 464-7229 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Email us at engineering@co.del-norte.ca.us.

See below map for general areas that will undergo testing.

Posted: 7/6/2026



Areas boxed in will be tested. Smoke may emanate outside of these limits.
Engineering and Surveying Division at (707) 464-7229