



Town of Nantucket
16 Broad Street
Nantucket, MA 02554

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH BEACH STREET SEWER RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

Nantucket, MA, January 19, 2018 – Nantucket Sewer Department has been smoke testing the sewer gravity mains in the downtown area for sources of infiltration and inflow (I/I) connections. This testing is expected to continue over the weekend and into next week. Smoke Testing is a standard method of detecting sewer defects and storm water cross connections to the sanitary sewer system. Smoke testing consists of placing a high capacity blower on top of a sanitary sewer manhole and forcing “smoke” down into the sewer system. The smoke, under pressure from the blower, travels through the sewer system and escapes through any connection, cracks, leaks, etc., along the way. This quickly reveals sources of I/I within the study area. The smoke used for smoke testing is non-toxic and non-hazardous and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residual or stains, and has no effect on plants or animals. The smoke should not enter your building, but if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should only last a few minutes with proper ventilation.

Pedestrian access has been restored on the South Beach Street sidewalk along the Harbor/Yacht Club side of the street. Fencing is in place alongside the sidewalk to prevent pedestrian access into the work zone. The sidewalk and work area was completely decontaminated by Clean Harbors (as of Monday, January 15).

Crews will continue on Monday to focus on decontamination efforts on the subsurface utility vaults and conduits within the affected area. We expect crews will begin dewatering efforts soon to lower the ground water which will eventually lead to excavation of the site.

All downtown streets in the Core area remain open to regular traffic and parking with the exception of South Beach Street from Broad Street to Harborview Way, Sea Street and Whaler’s Lane. South Beach Extension is closed from Broad Street to Oak Street.

WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS:

As the South Beach Street clean up and sewer reconstruction efforts continue, the Town of Nantucket requests that all residents connected to the Town sewer system restrict their water usage as much as possible. Limiting water usage helps to reduce the volume of wastewater that enters our system. While the sewer system is functioning and sewage is no longer being discharged into the Harbor (as of Monday, January 8th at 10:30 am), a bypass system is needed. Until a bypass system and eventual permanent repairs are completed, excessive flow associated with a winter storm flooding event could potentially result in another discharge to the harbor. Therefore, the public’s assistance in lowering daily water usage is critical.

Ways in which the public can help reduce water usage include: reducing duration of showers; turn off water when washing hands and brushing teeth; using washing machines and dishwashers only when full; limiting washing machine and dishwasher use to off-peak hours of 11:00 pm – 5:00 am and 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

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More information can be found at www.nantucket-ma.gov and Social Media: Twitter @TownofNantucket, Instagram @TownofNantucket. The Town of Nantucket maintains an Emergency Alert and Information Radio Channel at 105.5. NCTV18, WACK-97.7 and The Inquirer and Mirror will also broadcast alerts as needed.