

Lights, CAMERA, Action!

As most of the NeRWA Utility Members throughout the state know, NeRWA has a camera to televise sewer lines. The camera allows us to view underground without going below ground surface. This can be very beneficial when trying to determine what is causing specific problems.

The camera is beneficial for locating obstructions such as tree roots and grit or grease, broken or damaged lines, water leaks to sewer, locating a lines destination, settled or repositioned lines.

Unfortunately certain criteria must be met before the camera can be used.

Below is a list of questions to ask yourself before calling to set up a video appointment.

1. Can the manhole be easily accessed?
The camera needs a power source. This could be via a cigarette lighter plug, generator or an outlet from a house.
2. Has the sewer line been cleaned recently?
The removal of any grit or grease, which might inhibit the camera from being pushed through the line, must be done before the day of videoing.
3. Are you looking for tree roots?
Remember, if you find what you are looking for, tree roots are an obstruction and the camera may not get passed that point.
4. How long cable does the camera have and how far can the camera go?
The cable has 200 feet, but always remember it is only as good as we can push it. With this in mind, if the line is extremely narrow, due to grit and grease, the cable will have a difficult time being pushed through.
5. Does the camera go with the flow or against?
Like most things, it tends to go better naturally with the flow but can go against the flow.
6. How small a line can you go through?
A four-inch clean out is required. However, it will not go through floor drains or toilets.
7. Can the camera view from manhole to manhole?
Normal lengths from manhole to manhole are around 300 to 350 feet apart; the camera cable is 200 feet. Try to determine where the obstruction is and then find the manhole nearest that point.

8. Can we locate where the camera is, once it is in the sewer line?
The camera is equipt with Sonde' tracking device which sends a signal from the head of the camera back to the locating wand which allows us to track the camera. This also can calculate the approximate depth of the line.
9. Can you see underwater with the camera?
In most cases wastewater is not clear, this inhibits the view from the camera making it nearly impossible to see through.
10. Can the camera be ran in any municipal water well or reservoir?
Absolutely, not! This camera has been previously used in sewer lines and it would contaminate the drinking water.
11. Weather Tips!
We usually can't camera in the rain.
The camera cannot be used when the weather is 20 degrees or below.
When it is cold with wind gusts exceeding 25 mph does not bother the camera as much as it does me!!

I hope this will give our readers a guide to follow when requesting a sewer line to be videoed with our camera.