

# IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE ABOUT NATURAL GAS

## CROSS BORES



### WHAT IS A CROSS BORE?

Using trenchless technology (directional boring) during installation, a cross bore occurs when the gas line intersects an existing underground utility such as a sewer line. This can compromise the integrity of both underground utilities or the underground structure.

There could be a safety concern if any equipment used to clean a sewer service line were to inadvertently damage a natural gas line.

### WHERE DO CROSS BORES OCCUR?

When natural gas lines are installed in an urban area, trenchless technology (directional boring) is often used to dig horizontally underground. This helps alleviate damage to driveways, sidewalks and landscaping.

### WHEN IS IT A PROBLEM?

When natural gas lines are installed in an urban area, trenchless technology (directional boring) is often used to dig horizontally underground. This helps alleviate damage to driveways, sidewalks and landscaping.

### WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SEWER LINE REPAIR?

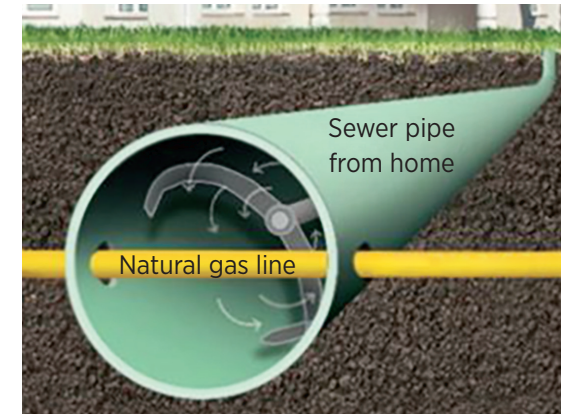
While cutting through a sewer line block, a plumber can unknowingly strike the gas line. As a result, leaking natural gas can enter the sewer system.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

When natural gas enters a sewer system, it can create a safety risk.

### WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

- Underground utility operators (water, sewer, cable, telephone, electric, natural gas)
- Plumbers



### Important contact information

Universal emergency number: **911**  
National call-before-you-dig number: **811**  
Black Hills Energy: **888-890-5554**  
Visit: [blackhillsenergy.com/safety](https://blackhillsenergy.com/safety)

## STEPS TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO CROSS BORES WHEN CLEARING

### PRE-CLEANING

1. Call 811 to receive proper utility locates.
2. Look for trees and landscaping that could be causing a blockage.
3. Ask the occupant if any utility work has recently been done.
4. Use an in-line camera inspection device to identify a blockage.

### DURING

1. Don't use a cutting tool.
2. Use a snake or water jet to clear the blockage.
3. Feel for obstructions that don't seem to resemble roots or other common obstructions.

### AFTER

1. We recommend you do not use a cutting tool. However, if you have used one, check the blades for yellow, orange or black plastic that has been taken out of the sewer line.
2. Look for bubbles, which may indicate that natural gas is escaping. Look specifically at the entry points, such as toilets or drains.
3. Inspect the area with a gas detection device.

Example of tools used for cleaning sewer line



Example of damaged Polyethylene gas pipe by cleaning tool



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