

# Caution: Utility Cross Bore

INFORMATION FOR AFFECTED PUBLIC, EXCAVATORS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

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## What is a Utility Cross Bore?

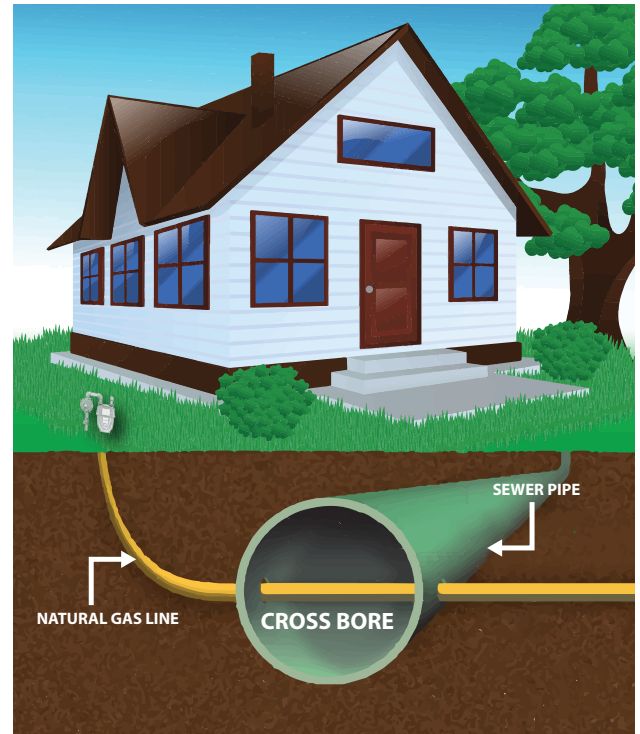
Many underground utilities are installed using ‘trenchless’ technologies. The technology causes minimal disruption to the surface as opposed to ‘open’ trenching.

A **cross bore** can occur when underground utilities intersect and sometimes occur between natural gas lines and sewer lines. A cross bore is unintentional and can exist for years before a sewer line clogs or collapses.

Cross bores are typically discovered when plumbers or other contractors attempt to clear a sewer blockage and auger through a natural gas line. If the gas line is damaged, gas can migrate through the sewer line into surrounding homes or businesses causing a potentially dangerous condition.

## How to Avoid a Natural Gas Cross Bore Emergency

- If having your sewer lines cleaned or maintained, share this information with your plumber.
- Ask your contractor to use a camera to assess the condition of the sewer line. If an obstruction is found that is not caused by roots or other plumbing related issue, it may be a utility cross bore.
- Call 811 to have utility lines located before any excavation. Excavate carefully to ensure there is no utility crossing through your sewer line.
- Be alert to the signs of a natural gas leak: **hissing sounds, natural gas odor, blowing dirt or bubbling water.**



*If a cross bore exists, and you or your contractor use a mechanical rotary device (auger) or hydro-clearing device to root out the blockage, a serious safety risk could result. In the event of a blockage, ask your contractor to use a camera to determine the condition causing the blockage.*

## If You Suspect a Cross Bore

- **STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY.**
- Do not attempt to clear the blockage with a mechanical device.