



Leading Practices for Cross Bore Risk Reduction

Gas Distribution Safety Focus

By: Mark Bruce, President, Cross Bore Safety Association

www.crossboresafety.org

Leading Practices for Cross Bore Risk Reduction

- Requested from industry & regulator because of concerns showing need for a detailed guidance document
- Existing cross bore inspections and construction efforts have, in some cases reported an area cleared of cross bore risks, but cross bores were found subsequently.
- Requires high confidence cross bore reduction efforts.
- Verifiable QAQC'd processes, accurate GPS and GIS are recommended
- **Accurate Verifiable Data is REQUIRED!**



32 Chapters, 88 pages, 23 Figures, 33 References, 12 Example Notices

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Executive Summary

The natural gas industry has requested a guidance document to help minimize the creation of unplanned intersections of one utility with another (cross bore!) and eliminate legacy cross bores that have been installed in past construction activities.

One of the most serious cross bore risks is the presence of natural gas distribution lines installed through sewer pipes. Several natural gas utilities system integrity evaluations have identified cross bores as their highest risk.

Awareness of the risk has gradually spread through most of the gas distribution industry, but effective ways to mitigate the risk are not standardized. New projects are being implemented without historical perspective and good sources of information. This document is intended to share the leading practices for cross bore risk reduction.

Cross bore risk reduction began in the mid-late 1990's using improved process focus and then technologies based upon visual verification in the 2000's. Updated camera systems are still the primary tool of preference for most cross bore inspection projects. Thorough, deliberate construction practices also reduce the creation of new cross bores. As experience has been gained, better practices using more capable tools and processes have been developed. Many tools, techniques and processes are needed to successfully complete an effective risk mitigation program. More recently, sophisticated risk models coupled with prioritization modeling are proving effective for decreasing risk faster and with more efficiency.

Proven practices are providing utilities efficient high confidence results. Low confidence practices can leave a false sense of security and result in incorrect cross bore determinations. Industry leaders now recognized low confidence risk mitigation practices are no bargain, impede their reputation and allow risk to remain for the gas distribution industry. Inadequate confidence of the processes may require costly re-work.

A well-founded cross bore risk mitigation effort benefits from using all the resources that are available to achieve the best results and highest confidence. To achieve high confidence, collection of data should be designed to allow robust quality control processes including GPS



Presentation Preview

Focus Gas in Sewer Cross Bores

- Discuss installations resulting in cross bores
- Illustrate the risks
- Quantify the expected number of cross bores
- Consequences
- Benefits of cross bore risk reduction efforts
- Development of Leading Practices by CBSA
- Elements of Leading Practices
- Final Leading Practices Availability November, 2019

What's the Cross Bore Problem?

- Trenchless installations do not “see” existing lines creating potential intersections
- Sewer utilities are often unmarked and excluded from most 811 requirements, leading to substantial risk.
- All types of buried utilities are at risk from cross bores.
- Gas - sewer cross bores have been the focus of most cross bore risk reduction.





Cross Bores - Recognized Since 1976 by NTSB

- 2 persons killed
- 4 persons injured
- Punctured 2-inch plastic main.
- Entered house through 6” sewer lateral.
- Bored through bottom of the sewer tile.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 A.M., E.S.T., NOVEMBER 12, 1976

(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: November 12, 1976

Forwarded to:
Mr. C. S. McNeer
President
Wisconsin Natural Gas Company
233 Lake Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53401

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)
P-76-83 through P-76-86

At 8:53 a.m., on August 29, 1976, an explosion and fire destroyed a house at 6521 20th Avenue in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Two persons were killed, four persons were injured, and two adjacent houses were damaged. The destroyed house was not served by natural gas. However, natural gas, which was escaping at 58 psig pressure from a punctured 2-inch plastic main located 39 feet away, had entered the house through a 6-inch sewer lateral. The gas was ignited by an unknown source. After the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation disclosed that the gas main had been installed by boring through the bottom of the sewer tile; the gas main was perpendicular to the sewer tile. 1/

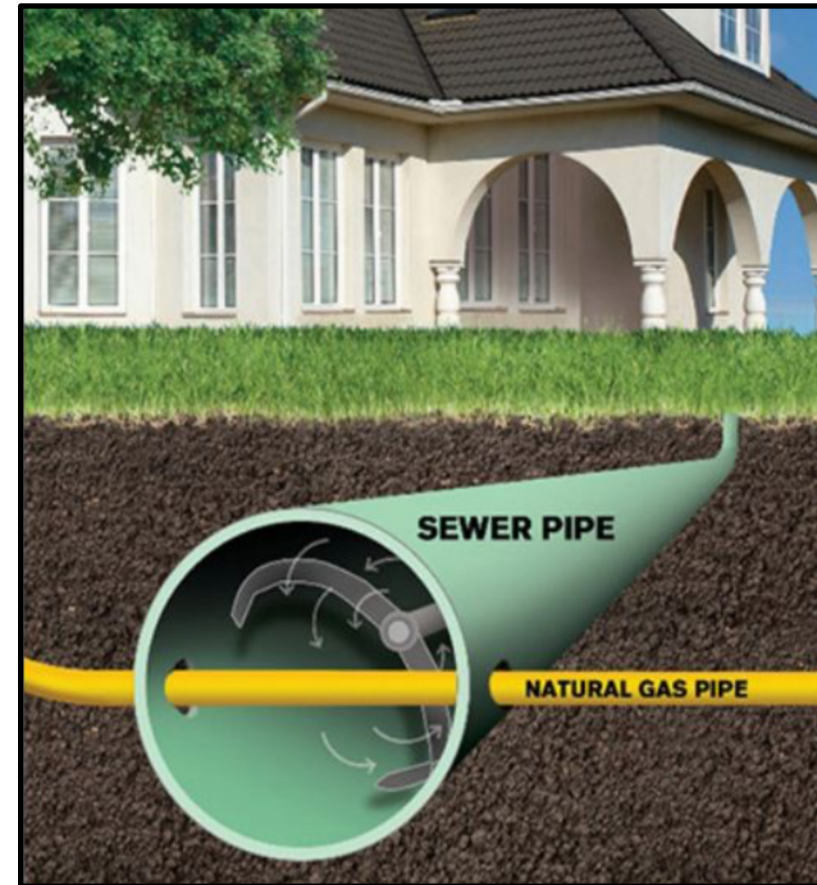
Cross Bores – Class 1, Typically Lays Dormant

One Utility Intersects One Other Utility



Cross Bores Are At Risk From Drain Cleaning Actions

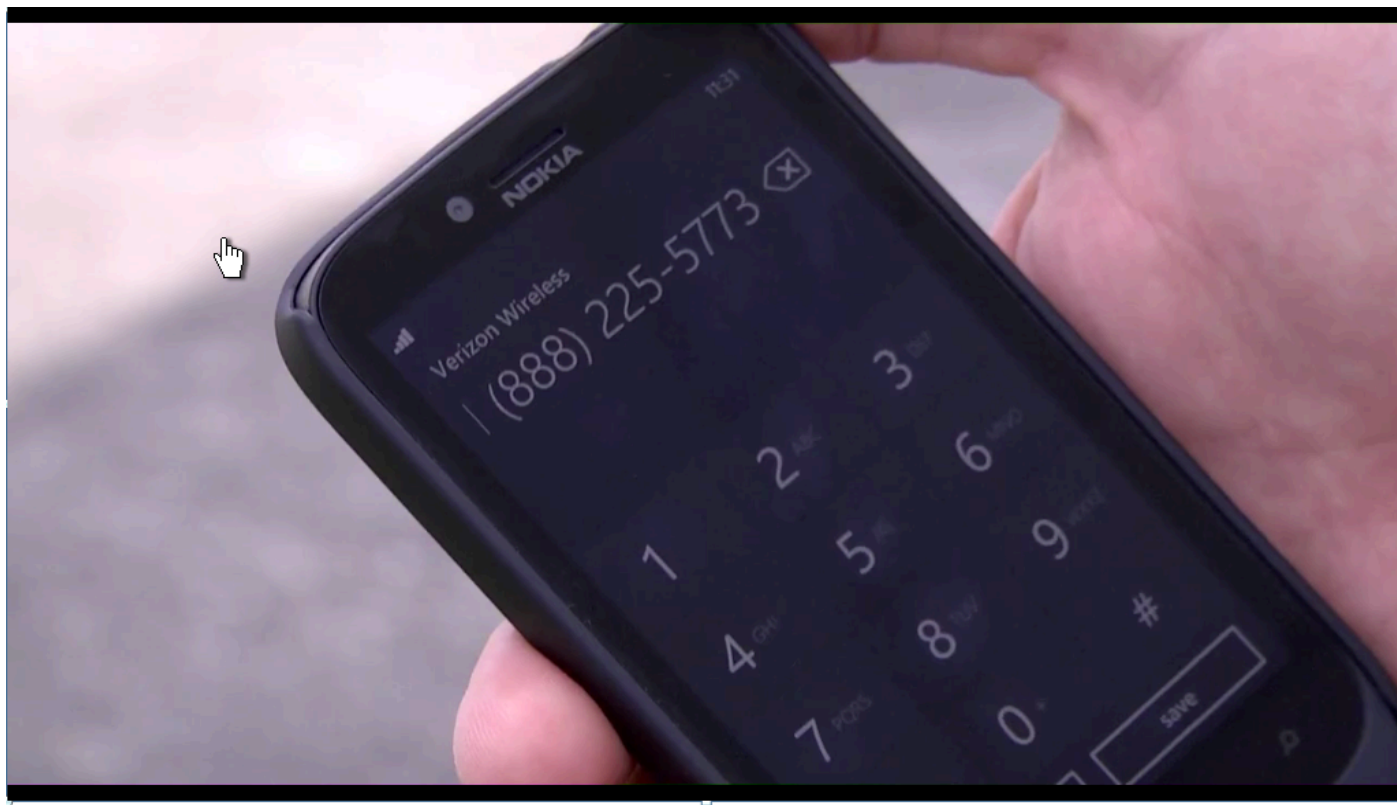
- Rotating cutting devices used to clear blocked residential and mainline sewers can cut cross bored utilities.
- Explosion, injury and death have resulted from ignited gas released from cross bores
- \$30 million per explosion have been reported



Community Outreach - Web, Radio Spots, Letters, Videos, Sandwich Boards, Theatre Spots

Online Links to Video:

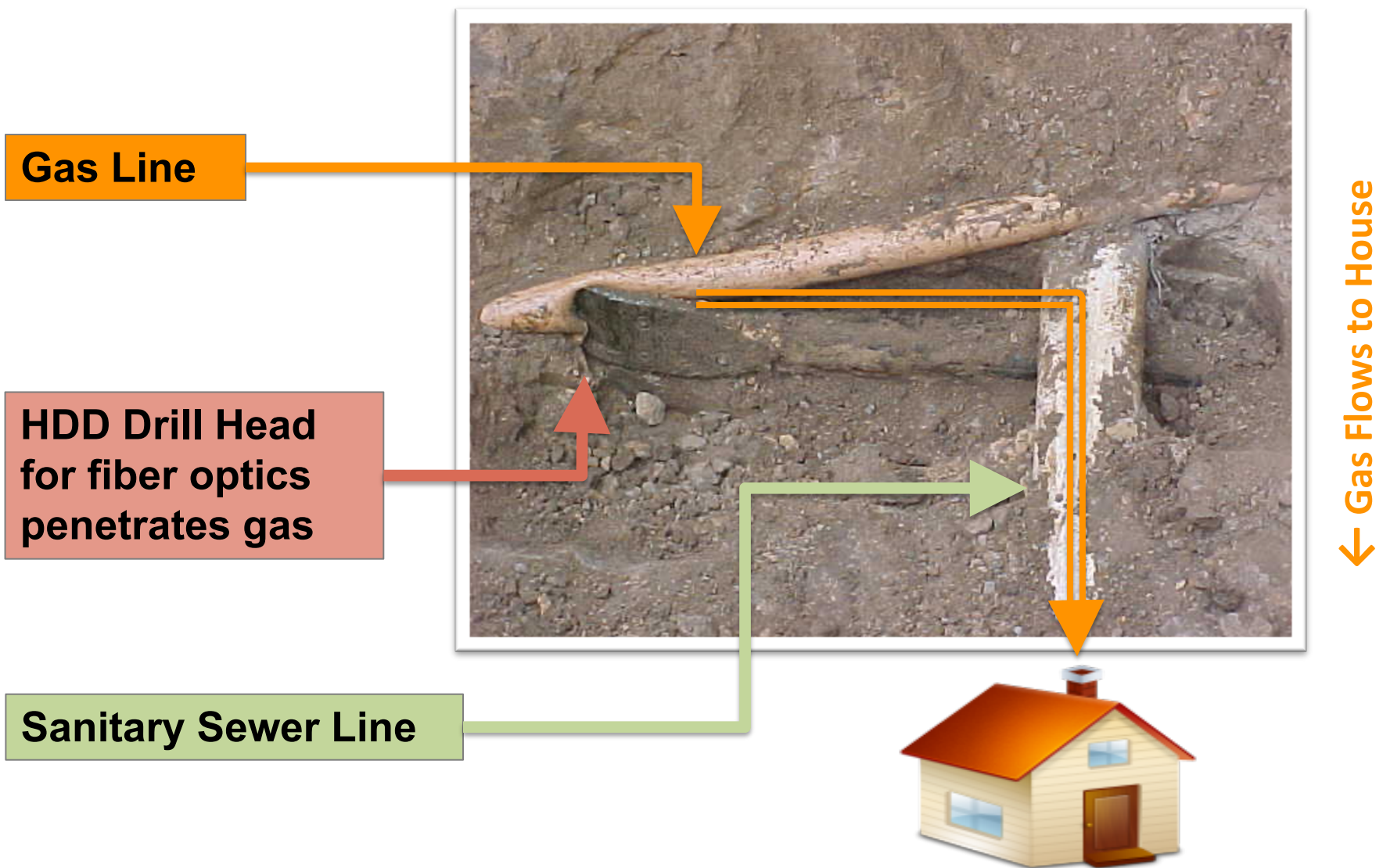
- <https://www.pse.com/safety/NaturalGasSafety/Pages/Blocked-Sewer.aspx>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPAR-3YiSEM&feature=youtu.be>



Click on Image to Play

Class 2 Cross Bore – Immediate Explosion Risk

Two Existing Utilities Intersected by Third Utility



Cross Bore Explosion - Class 2 Cross Bore

(see prior slide of this Class 2 cross bore)



Before




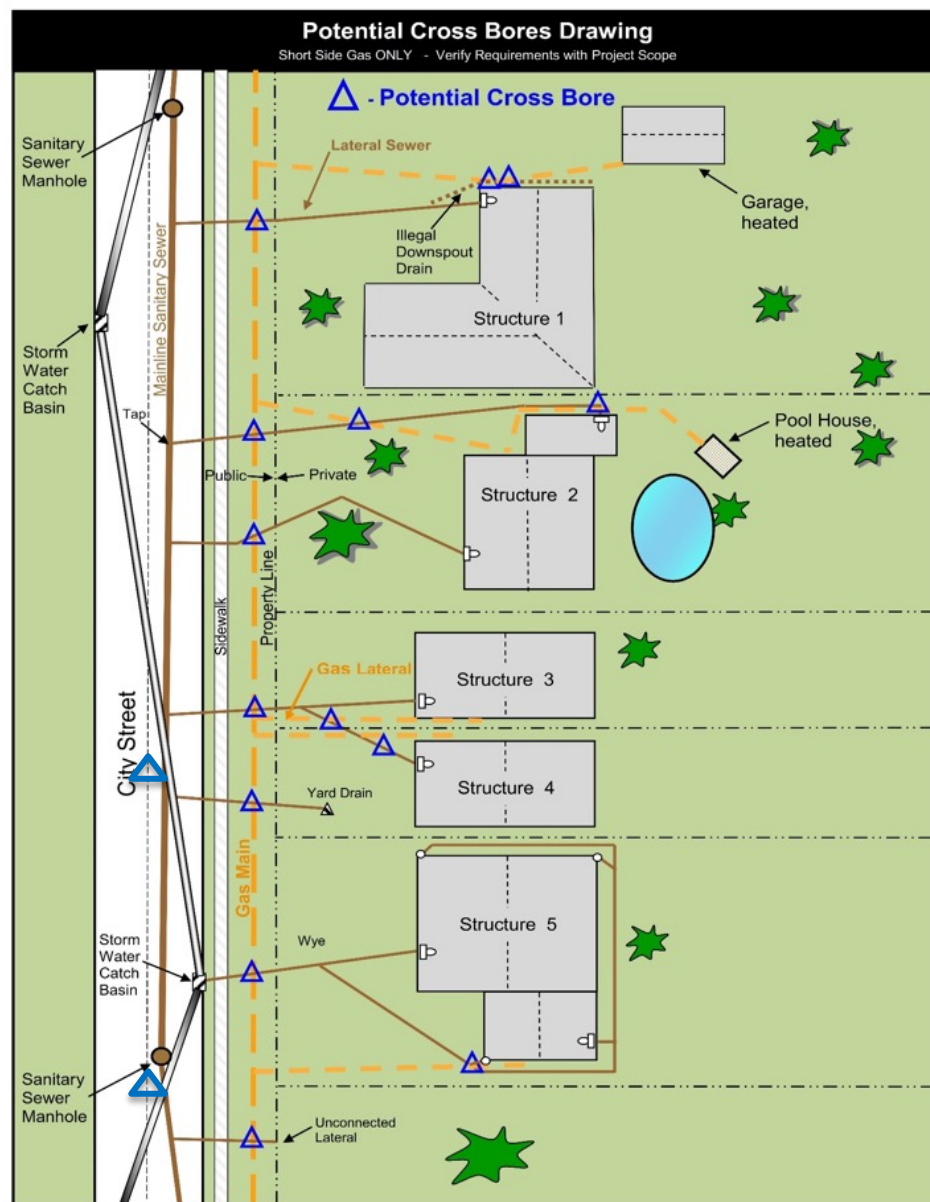
After

Potential Cross Bore Crossings - Gas In Sewer

Intersections Shown (16):

- Sanitary sewers
- Storm sewers
- Yard drains
- Gutter drains
- Cleanouts
- Offset cleanouts
- Branched laterals

 - Potential Intersection of Sanitary Sewer and Gas





Estimated Quantity of Cross Bores

- **Gas Cross Bores in Sewers \cong 0.4 per mainline mile**
- **Total Estimated \cong 300,000, U.S. & CA, open trench reduces risk**
- Cross bore risk occurs only with trenchless installations
- Approximately >70% of identified gas cross bores are of sewer laterals based on many projects, but percentage can be highly variable
- Gas pipelines, U.S. (2019) 2,558,000 miles *
 - Transmission, U.S. 301,000 miles *
 - **Distribution, U.S. 1,307,000 miles ***
 - **Gas Services, U.S. 922,500 miles ***

* U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. only)



Benefits of Cross Bore Risk Reduction Efforts

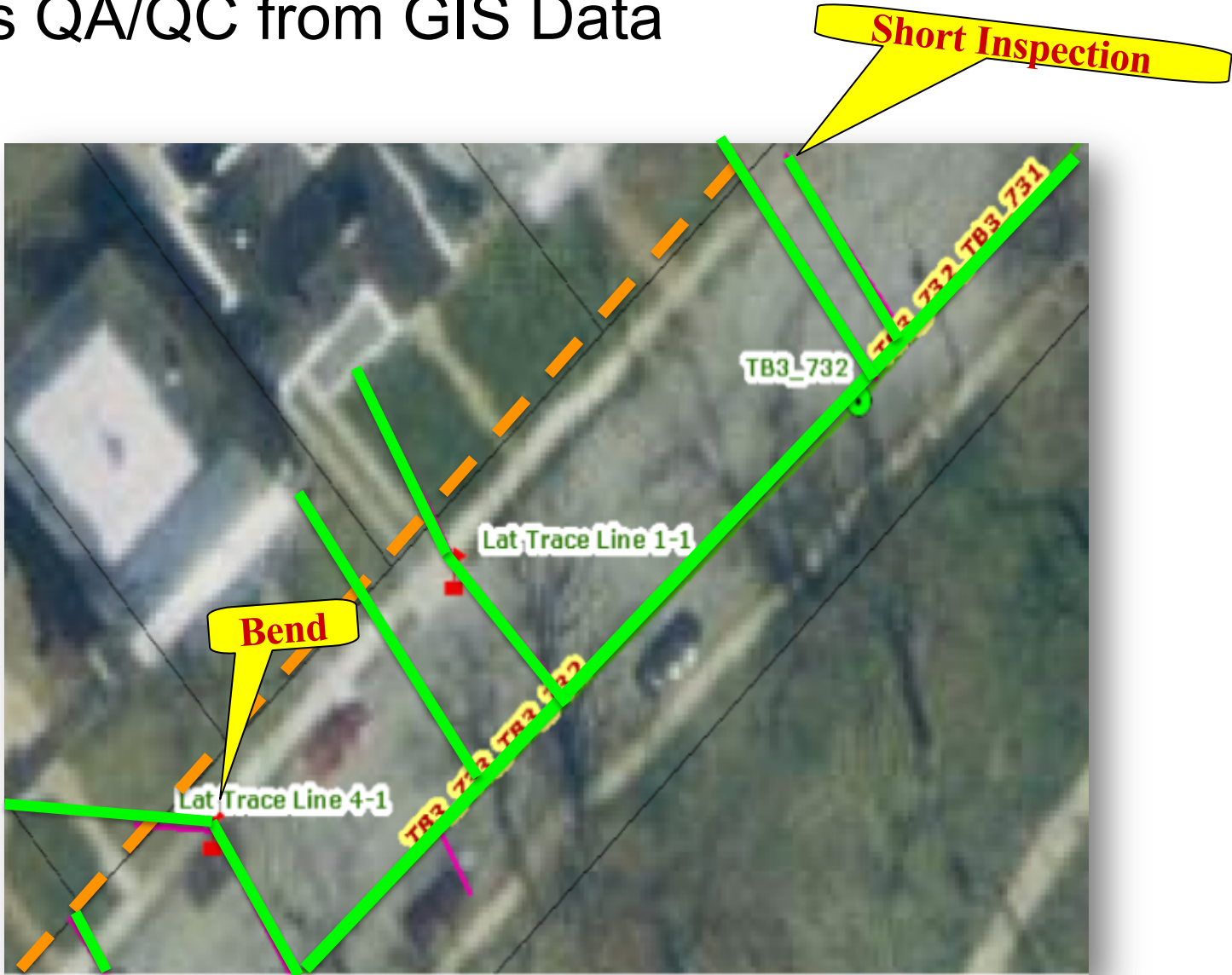
- Prevents injuries and damages
- Meets regulatory requirements, DIMP
- Higher confidence the gas utility is safe, encouraging continued demand from customers
- Cost Effective, verification vs. damages and related costs
- Protects the utility enterprise value from unplanned incidents and costs not in the rate base

New Risk Reduction Inspection Projects – Consider Inspection of High Consequence Cross Bore Potentials First

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Large concentration of occupants
- Difficult to evacuate structures



GPS and GIS Mapping – Allows QA/QC from GIS Data





Leading Practices Committee Members

- **Leading Practices Committee Members**
 - Greg Scoby – Cross Bore Consultants, LLC
 - Annmarie Robertson – PHMSA
 - Mark Wallbom, formerly Miller Pipeline / Hydromax USA
- **Sub-Committees**
 - Construction – Mike Kemper, Mears Group - Quanta
 - Data Management – Joe Purtell, Cues, Inc.
 - Risk Analysis – Mark Wallbom, Hydromax USA
 - Stakeholder - Tyler Boyles, Enbridge
 - Legacy Installations – Brian Mattson, Digital Control, Inc.
 - Legal – Mark Bruce, Hydromax USA



Partial List of Reviewing Organizations Asked to Participate In Cooperation with CBSA

- American Gas Association, AGA
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers, AEM
- Distribution Contractors Association, DCA
- Gas Technology Institute, GTI
- National Underground Contractors Assoc., NUCA
- Midwest Energy Association, MEA
- Northeast Gas Association
- Southern Gas Association, SGA
- Western Energy Institute, WEI



Leading Practices – Background Chapters

1. History of Cross Bores
2. Financial and Social Costs
3. Current Practice Gaps
4. Installation Equipment at Risk of Creating Cross Bores
5. Results of Cross Bores and the Timeline
6. Responsible Party's Opportunity to Minimize Cross Bore Risk and Impacts
7. Regulatory Opportunities
8. Regulatory Rate Support
9. Sources of Cross Bore Information



Leading Practices – Technical Recommendation Chapters

10. Cross Bore Risk Reduction Goals
11. Outline of Risk Reduction Project Tasks
12. Legacy Risk Determination
13. New Construction Risk Reduction
14. Data Preservation, Accessibility and Security
15. Data Use Across the Enterprise
16. Quality Control
17. Project Metrics
18. Public Outreach

- Continued -



Leading Practices – Technical Recommendation Chapters, (cont.)

19. Access to Sewer Systems, Public Right of Way and Private Property
20. Scoping for Cross Bore Risk Reduction Inspections
21. New Construction Inspections
22. Robotic Mainline and Launched Lateral CCTV Inspections
23. Manual Push CCTV Inspections
24. Vacuum Excavation Used for Cross Bore Risk Reduction
25. Pull Back Camera Use
26. Ground Penetrating Radar Use
27. Other Emerging Tools for Future Consideration

- Continued -



Leading Practices – Technical Recommendation Chapters, (cont.)

- 28. Locating Field Work
 - 29. Proximity Determinations
 - 30. Clean Out Installation Use
 - 31. Occupant Notifications
-

Summary

References

Definitions

Appendix A: Publications

Appendix B: Examples for Notices, Door Hangers and Letters

Risk Modeling & Prioritization / Project Flow Chart



- xxi. Prioritization models are an extension of a risk model. Projects benefit from using the risk model together with prioritization factors. Prioritization factors include budget limitations and timing of the program budget. Adding factors for the material life of the existing utility, known obsolescence, for the planned capital improvement (replacement) budget or other types upgrades that affect the life of the existing utility will drive the prioritization results. Shorter life would typically lower the risk.



Figure 6: Risk modeling visualization based on parcel boundaries and using color coding

- xxii. Combining both legacy and new/replacement construction inspections is frequently more cost effective and results in greater risk reduction for a given amount of physical and financial resources. This is frequently found to be effective in sewer inspections for cross bores where a main sewer line is traversed for a single structure that has a new utility installed and the area has been modeled for legacy risk reductions.

xxiii. *Commentary: A cross bore program typically will take several months to get organized. Initial steps may be to begin by inspecting schools, hospitals and nursing homes.*

- d. Once cross bore mitigation for new installations, replacement installations or legacy risk) is determined to require risk reduction, the following elements should be considered:



- xviii. Who will be responsible and organize the repair activity.
 - 1) Track repair status
 - 2) Permit and inspection requirements

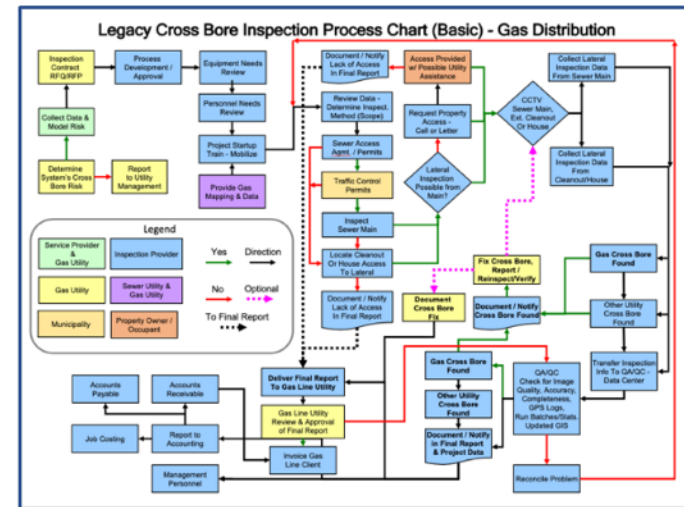


Figure 7: Basic Legacy Cross Bore Inspection Process Chart

13. New and Replacement Construction Risk Reduction

New construction and replacement projects should include verifiable, high confidence construction and inspection processes which eliminate the risk of creating new cross bores. Since replacement installations have a higher risk of creating a cross bore, this paper primarily addresses replacement installations. For new installations the same steps should be considered and then tailored to each specific new construction project since there are often situations when certain steps are applicable for replacement installations but not for new installations; for example, when it has been confirmed that there are no existing utilities in the area. Again, new construction and replacement installations are best addressed as two separate yet related processes in order to achieve maximum thoroughness and efficiency. Utility and installation contractors' liability will be reduced when the work includes high confidence inspection programs. Cross bore risk reduction methods should be integrated in the utility project requirements for construction.



Sewer Inspection Challenges

iii. Mainline CCTV robots in large diameter pipes may not be designed to allow the centering of the sonde in the mainline. This should be recognized and corrected or at least have adequate tolerance allowed in the use of the data.

- 1) Both the CCTV camera and sondes will follow the contours of the pipe bottom as shown in Figure 11 depicting factors affecting depth.
- 2) The project management team should be aware and allow tolerances in the use of data. Small diameter pipe, 8" or less, will not normally have significant vertical tolerance from position in the pipe.
- 3) Large diameter pipes may have significant tolerance if the camera is not centered. See Figure 11 (Upper and lower left sections of the illustration).

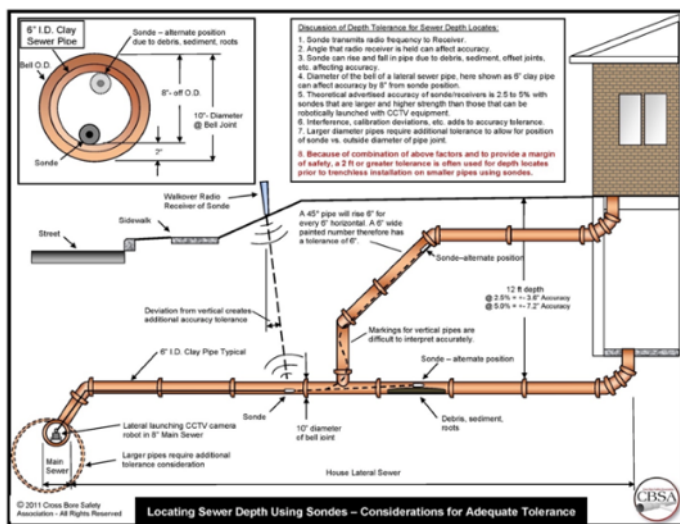


Figure 11: Illustration of Sonde Positions Affecting Sonde Apparent Accuracy

- p. Recommended collected data review includes:
 - i. For CCTV sewer inspections: NASSCO PACP⁷ and NASSCO LACP⁸ fields. This data structure is equipment independent and allows integration

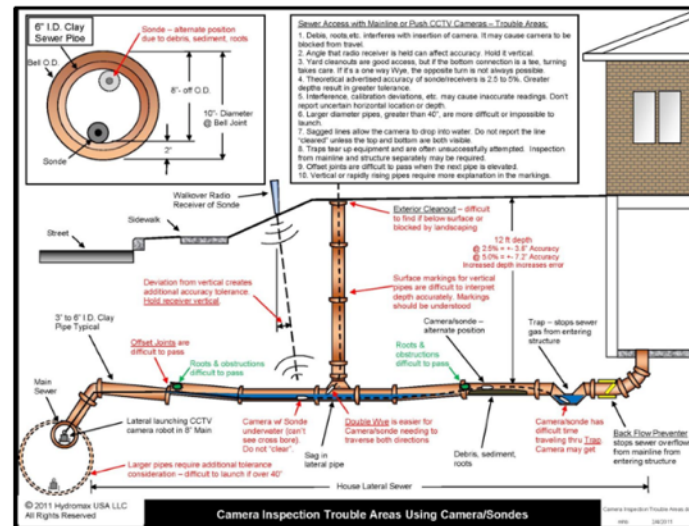


Figure 16: Camera Inspection Trouble Areas and Locating Accuracy Considerations

- h. Other impediments which can limit inspection success include: high water flow covering the camera lens, high water flow with high velocity which impedes traverse, grease on lens, grease limiting robot traction, multiple bends of sewer, roughness of the pipe, water sags, large diameters and access to manhole launch points.
- i. High water levels of effluent in sewers are typically periodic or related to storm water runoff. Storm water may be planned as part of a combined sewer system (sanitary and storm) or result from leaking pipes or external storm connections such as roof gutter drainage.
 - i. When storm water flows are high inspections with CCTV cameras may need to be delayed until flows subside.
 - ii. Periods of high sanitary flows are normally between 6:00 AM and late evening when facilities are in greater use. Scheduling of sewer inspections starting in the late evening until approximately 6:00 am may allow lower

Accessing Sewers from Structures

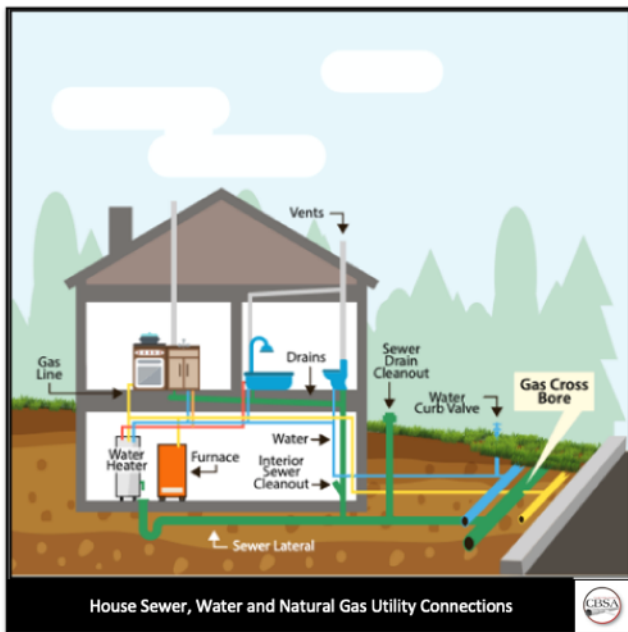


Figure 18: Typical residential plumbing and sewer lateral.

- i. Interior cleanouts including in crawl spaces and basements.
 - ii. Toilet removal and resetting after the inspection is complete, using new seals and typically new hose for the water supply.
 - iii. Roof vents. See [Figure 18](#) for an illustration of vents and interior plumbing and sewer connections to the mainline.
 - iv. Access to roof vents shall be according to OSHA requirements, see [Figure 19](#) for an example of a push camera inspection from a house vent. See [Chapter 23](#).
- d. Structure access has the added inconvenience of requiring permission for the inspection, thus the need for the project scope to include an appointment process to include:
- i. Convenience to the occupant.

- iii. Roof vents. See [Figure 19](#) for an illustration of vents and interior plumbing and sewer connections to the mainline.
 - iv. Access to roof vents shall be according to OSHA requirements, see [Figure 20](#) for an example of a push camera inspection from a house vent. See [Chapter 23](#).
- d. Structure access has the added inconvenience of requiring permission for the inspection, thus the need for the project scope to include an appointment process to include:
- i. Convenience to the occupant.
 - ii. Adequate convenient time slots to determine defined arrival times to gain occupant agreement for access.
 - iii. Depending upon work density and traffic congestion, drive times should be allowed. Two-hour windows for appointments may be considered as a starting point.
 - iv. Workday appointments can be inconvenient for customers. Saturday work should be considered on a limited basis.
 - v. Since defined appointment windows are non-productive for field crews as compared to exterior cleanouts, the costs of customer convenience to achieve higher satisfaction and the increased costs must be recognized.
- e. Push CCTV technicians should have good personal interaction skills for success with structure entry activities to achieve high satisfaction goals. Training and use of standard scripts reviewed by the project management team are advised for consistency and higher customer satisfaction. See [Chapter 18](#).



Figure 20: Roof vent inspection with manual push camera. Fall protection must be used according to safety regulations.

Cross Bore Intersections – Sanitary and Gas

- e. Access to construction drawings, mapping systems and any other required data sets are required for scoping activities. Prior inspections in the area should be accessible.

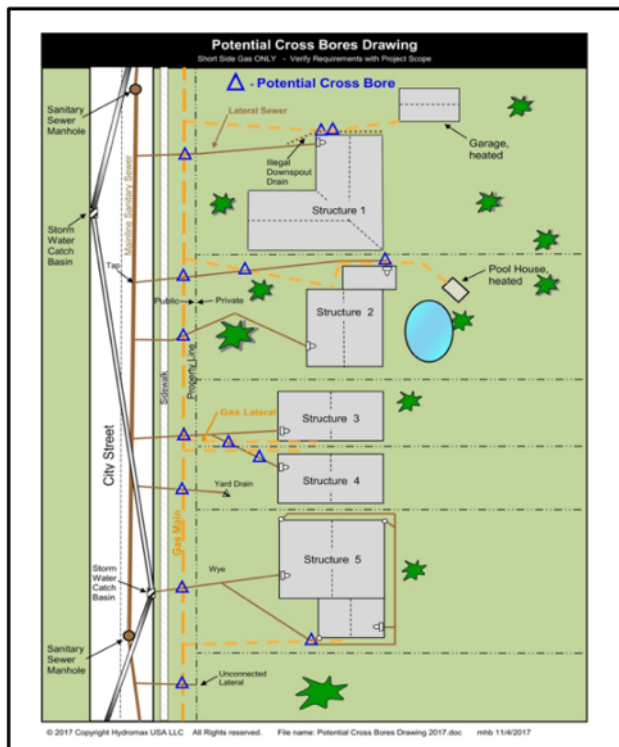


Figure 14: Potential cross bore intersections of gas and sanitary sewers. Storm sewer intersections NOT shown. Short side gas ONLY, laterals on same side of mainline.

lateral launch cameras first as opposed to using manual push cameras, since this method more easily identifies lateral taps. Extra care must be taken by manual push camera technicians to verify that all laterals are traversed beyond the risk of cross bore with the existing utilities, see Figure 10 and Figure 12.



Figure 12: Parcel illustrating 5 mainline sewer segments that could have lateral connections to single structure

- xiii. Field technicians and QA/QC data analysts need to be aware of installed service extensions beyond the gas meter, i.e. to garages, pools or outbuildings.
 - 1) Extensions beyond the meter may not be within the scope of the inspection program. If the risk is only to confirm the gas system operator's lines and not any public or customer owned lines, then any notifications to the occupant/owner stating a property has been inspected needs to have a limiting statement that does not lead to conclusions that there is no remaining risk of that utility from possible user installed lines.
 - 2) In some cases, past practices have resulted in utility installed service extensions. Though current practice may not be to install these extensions, responsibility could exist via past installation practices of the utility.
- xiv. If the view or traverse is inadequate and the CCTV camera cannot determine the sewer as cross bore free, additional inspection activities need to be performed. These efforts could include:

Proximity Determinations



Figure 22: Example of property with determination made using surface elevation on the site

technicians to utilize existing information previously collected, observable specific circumstances of the site together, and additional use of utility locating at the time of the determination, as needed.

- a) Proximity determinations are typically a lower cost option to other actions that could be required, i.e. lower than additional camera inspections from the structure, vacuum excavation for observance of a crossing or installation of a clean out.
- b) A specially trained technician uses the site's visual information to augment other information.
 - i) All collected information from the prior inspections is accessed, the site is viewed, elevations and separation distances may be utilized.
 - ii) Elevations of the terrain are evaluated.
 - iii) Elevations of the utilities are evaluated.
 - iv) Determination is made for further inspections, vacuum excavation or clean out installation.
 - (1) Additional information is collected that will help direct next actions.
 - (2) All proximity determinations shall be reviewed in separate QA/QC processes for final risk determination. The result will be determined if the property is not at-risk or if additional inspection work is required.
- v) An illustrative proximity determination example follows, *see Figure 22*.
 - (1) The sewer exits on the left side of the house and the sewer tap was previously navigated on the left side of the structure, but the CCTV vision was impaired or a portion of the sewer line was not able to be traversed, and;
 - (2) The gas line is located on the right side of the house perpendicular to the main and;
 - (3) The concern remains if the known sewer connects to an additional branched sewer from a tee or wye and travels towards the gas line. In this example, a basement garage driveway divides one side of the front yard from the right side. Elevation of driveway is below the elevation of the gravity sewer and there is no risk of a known branched sewer cross and there can be and the no gas line crossing as a result.
 - (4) The review would then logically conclude that there is no risk of cross bore for the gas and sewer servicing this structure from the gas and sewer services.
 - (5) If a no remaining risk determination can be made, a recommendation for the next action required should be recorded.
- c) Proximity determinations need to be used only with very precise processes from both very well-trained technicians in the field and review from experienced analysts in the quality control.
- d) A detailed decision matrix should be followed.



Figure 22: Example of property with determination made using surface elevation on the site

GPS / GIS Mapping

- Recommended GPS Accuracy - better than 12" equipment
- Requires differential correction capability
- Differential correction is free in some states using mobile internet connections
- Frequently achieve 4" (10 cm) accuracy
- Use offsets to accommodate multipath from reflected GPS signals
- Urban canyons are difficult to achieve 12" accuracy





Public Awareness & Form Samples (consider multi-language when appropriate)

SAFETY NOTICE - DO NOT REMOVE

WARNING

This machine could cause a natural gas emergency

Call PSE before you clear an exterior blocked sewer. We'll be there—usually within an hour—to make sure.

1-888-225-5773

pse.com/sewersafety

SAFETY NOTICE - DO NOT REMOVE

Some sewer lines have gas lines running

In areas where natural gas lines are installed through sewer lines, there is a chance that a gas line installed through a sewer line is undetectable to equipment. In these areas, this machine could damage your sewer line or enter your home. To enter your home, call PSE before you clear a blockage. PSE will usually be there within an hour to make sure the line is safe to clear.

CALL 1-888-225-5773 before you clear an exterior sewer.

pse.com/sewersafety



PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Clearing a blocked sewer or septic line?

Call PSE at 1-888-225-5773

Some sewers have gas pipelines in them. In neighborhoods where natural gas lines are installed through sewer lines, there is a chance that a gas line installed through a sewer line is undetectable to equipment. In these areas, this machine could damage your sewer line or enter your home. To enter your home, call PSE before you clear a blockage. PSE will usually be there within an hour to make sure the line is safe to clear.

What PSE does when you call

As soon as you call, and at no cost, PSE will dispatch a technician to meet with you at your sewer and/or septic line. We'll usually arrive within 1 hour.

For more information:

Visit pse.com/sewersafety in English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian to find more available content.

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PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Clearing a blocked sewer or septic line?

Call PSE at 1-888-225-5773

Your plumber can help. Your plumber or drain-clearing professional may recommend snaking a sewer or your sewer lines. Snaking is a way to clear a gas pipeline. This is a good option, and if it's your choice, you'll be responsible for the cost of the gas pipeline. We'll usually be there within an hour to make sure the line is safe to clear.

How this problem was caused

For many years, utility technicians have installed gas pipelines by using underground utility line digging techniques, to avoid being up and over the ground. Snaking a sewer line can cause a gas pipeline to be installed in a way that is not safe.

What PSE is doing to fix the problem

PSE is a service partner. Hydroxone USA, a service of one of the nation's largest utility companies, has installed a new system to detect gas pipelines in sewer lines. This system is called the Hydroxone USA system. It is a new system that can detect gas pipelines in sewer lines. This system is called the Hydroxone USA system. It is a new system that can detect gas pipelines in sewer lines.

keeping you IN THE LOOP

We need to share an important safety message. If your sewer backs up, call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 before anyone clears the blockage. We will promptly send a technician to ensure it's safe.

We recently installed a natural gas pipeline nearby using an underground boring machine. Boring minimizes damage to your landscaping and pavement, but on rare occasions, may result in the pipeline being installed through sewers, which are often not mapped or detectable using above-ground sensors.

While posing no immediate danger, this situation can be hazardous if a cutting tool ruptures a gas pipeline while clearing a blocked sewer. As a precaution, PSE will be checking sewers to ensure they are clear of PSE pipelines. This notice does not mean your sewer has been affected.

pse.com/sewersafety

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Noticamos un mensaje importante sobre la seguridad.

Si su cloaca tubular de drenaje se tapan, llame a PSE al 1-888-225-5773 antes que alguien intente limpiarla. Nosotros enviaremos inmediatamente un técnico para tener la seguridad de que no existe ninguna fuga.

Recientemente instalamos una tubería de gas natural cerca suya usando una máquina de perforación subterránea. La perforación reduce el daño al terreno y el pavimento pero en algunas ocasiones, puede resultar en que la línea se instale a través de cloacas. Sin que a menudo resulten evidencias en las superficies se pueden detectar usando detectores de sensores de superficie.

Aunque no es un peligro inmediato, esta situación puede ser peligrosa si una herramienta de corte rompe una tubería de gas mientras está abriendo una cloaca tapada. Como precaución, PSE inspeccionará las cloacas para tener la seguridad de que no hay un tubo de gas. Esta inspección no significa que su cloaca está afectada.

我們需要通知您以下重要安全資訊。

如果您下水道出現阻塞，請在任何人嘗試清理前，請先致電 PSE 公司，電話號碼是 1-888-225-5773。我們將立即派遣技師到場，確保您的安全。

我們最近使用地下鑽孔技術，在您的附近安裝了一條天然氣管線。雖然這種技術能減少對地形和路面造成的損傷，但偶爾可能會導致管線穿過下水道，而這些下水道通常無法通過地面探測器檢測到。

雖然目前沒有立即的危險，但如果切割工具在清理堵塞的下水道時意外破裂了天然氣管線，這可能會造成危險。作為預防措施，PSE 公司將檢查您的下水道，以確保它們是安全的。這項通知並不表示您的下水道受到影響。

InfraSource

PSE natural gas work

Puget Sound Energy will be working in your neighborhood to:

- Replace the existing natural gas main to assure continued safety and reliability of the natural gas system serving your area.
- Connect a new customer to the natural gas system.
- Extend the natural gas main in the street to facilitate the connection of a new customer to the natural gas system.
- Disconnect an existing natural gas line that is no longer being used.
- Complete maintenance work on existing natural gas equipment.

What you can expect:

- Work is expected to begin and last approximately _____ day(s).
- Work hours are generally _____ am. to _____ p.m.
- Signs, cones and/or traffic control flaggers will guide vehicles and pedestrians safely through the work zone. We'll work to maintain access to sidewalks whenever possible. If access is temporarily blocked, we'll coordinate with you as needed.

pse.com

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Please call to schedule an appointment

206-512-8032

Monday-Friday

Hydroxone USA performs safety inspections on buried Hydroxone USA pipes. The inspection will occur and results will be shared with you. You will usually receive the results within 24 hours. We'll usually arrive within 1 hour to make sure the line is safe to clear.

What you can expect:

- Work is expected to begin and last approximately _____ day(s).
- Work hours are generally _____ am. to _____ p.m.
- Signs, cones and/or traffic control flaggers will guide vehicles and pedestrians safely through the work zone. We'll work to maintain access to sidewalks whenever possible. If access is temporarily blocked, we'll coordinate with you as needed.

pse.com/sewersafety

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

We're checking sewers

To maintain safe and reliable gas service, we're checking sewer pipes in your neighborhood.

On rare occasions, natural gas lines have been inadvertently installed through sewer lines. This is known as a "cross bore." While posing no immediate danger, cross bores can be hazardous if a cutting tool ruptures the gas line while clearing a blocked sewer.

As a precaution, PSE's service partner, Hydroxone USA, will be inspecting sewers in your neighborhood to ensure they are free of PSE gas lines. Hydroxone employees carry identification badges bearing their names, photos and ID numbers.


For questions or more information, please call Hydroxone at 1-800-271-3886, or visit PSE online.

pse.com/sewersafety


Cross Bore Report - GIS Based

Cross Bore Report	
Date:	9/10/2019
Address:	1607 26th Ave Seattle, WA 98122
Sewer Assets:	
Parcel Number:	9828200605
Claim Number:	186582503
Crew Operator:	Michael Choe
Sewer Asset Type:	Sewer Lateral
Distance from Mainline Tap (for lateral sewer cross bore):	~45'
Distance from Manhole (for main sewer cross bore):	
Sewer Diameter:	6"
Sewer Pipe Material:	Vitrified Clay Pipe
Gas Assets:	
Gas Asset Type:	Service
Gas Line Diameter:	1.125"
Gas Line Material:	PE
Gas Installation SAP:	892607
Gas Installation Date:	4/16/2019
Yrs/Mos Since Install:	0yrs/5mos
Installation Type:	HoleHog
Type of Inspection:	
New Construction	
Cross Bore Type:	
New Construction	
Job Type:	
Simple Service	
Primary Equipment Used:	
Mainline Lateral Launch CCTV	
Additional Equipment Used:	
None	
Additional Notes	
GFR Tim Peterson on site. Wye is ~43.9' from MLT. Cross bore is ~1.1' from beginning of wye	


Aerial Photo



Above Ground Site Photo



Interior Pipe Photo



Cross Bore Info Online



...to minimize the risk for injury, loss of life and property damage from utility cross bores

- » Home
- » History
- » News & Articles
- » Best Practices
- » Leading Practices
- » Participating Organizations
- » Committee Registration
- » Legacy Cross Bores
- » New Construction
- » System Integrity
- » Risk Evaluation
- » Drain Cleaner Safety
- » Videos/Websites
- » Photos-Cross Bores+
- » State Regs and Rulings
- » Papers Present
- » Tools and Techn
- » Inform
- » Join N
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- » Conta

Photos - Cross Bores and Explosions

Traditional Installation Techniques

Excavate an open trench manually, by backhoe or by trencher. These techniques allow for inspection of the trench bottom and any intersected utilities. Repairs can be made at the time of installation if needed.

History of Cross Bores

In 1976 NTSB, National Transportation Safety Board, as a result of explosion, 2 deaths and 4 injuries, recommended:

- » "inspection.... where gas mains and sewer laterals may be in proximity."
- » "...determine other locations where gas lines were installed near existing sewer facilities.....then inspect these locations and take corrective action where necessary."

By the late 1990's there began to be an awareness that underground distribution lines (electric, gas and cable) were being drilled, moled or plowed into sanitary sewers, storm sewers and other utilities. Initial concerns were primarily of damage to the lines.

Sewer authorities complained that newly constructed sewer lines were being damaged when underground utility lines

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- Electric safety
- Natural gas safety**
- Natural gas leaks
- Call before you dig
- Gas safety tips
- Blocked sewer & septic lines
- Maintain your piping
- Carbon monoxide
- Gas shutoff
- Gas inspections
- Get prepared
- Tree Trimming
- Emergency Ops

Blocked sewer and septic lines

Call PSE first to prevent cross bore danger

When you have a sewer or septic line blockage outside the walls of your home, call PSE first to prevent cross bore danger. When you have a sewer or septic line blockage outside the walls of your home, call PSE first to prevent cross bore danger. When you have a sewer or septic line blockage outside the walls of your home, call PSE first to prevent cross bore danger.

If you are contacted by Hydromax USA regarding a sewer or septic line inspection, be assured that they are an authorized PSE service partner working to ensure your safety.

What to do

To safely clear a blocked sewer or septic line:

- Determine if the blockage is within the walls of your home. Only outdoor blockages pose a risk.
- If you think the blockage is outside, ask your plumber to call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 at least one hour before attempting to clear it. We'll immediately dispatch a technician, who can usually arrive at your location within 60 minutes.
- Working with your plumber, the technician will locate the sewer and gas lines and make sure it's safe to proceed. This service is free of charge.

Your plumber can help

Your plumber or drain-cleaning professional may recommend inserting a camera in your sewer to look for cross bores. This is a good practice, and if a cross bore is found, PSE will reimburse you for the camera inspection. However, you should always call PSE to work with your plumber to precisely locate both your sewer and gas lines before using a cutting tool, because a cross bore may be concealed behind other obstructions and not be visible to the plumber's camera.

Safety tips for sewer clearing professionals

Read these safety tips for professionals working with sewers in the PSE service territory.

[Cross bore facts](#)

[About Hydromax USA](#)

FATAL ERROR

Consumers Energy crews working to replace a natural gas main in Royal Oak on Feb. 27 failed to follow state and federal gas safety regulations and expose the areas where their horizontal drilling passed existing underground service lines.

Here is how horizontal drilling works and where the safety step called potholing was left out.

1. GETTING STARTED: A guided boring machine pushes a spinning drill bit into the ground, starting a path for a new gas pipe.

2. GUIDING THE BORE The drill head sends positioning signals to workers at the surface who guide the drill around obstacles.

3. MISSING STEP Hand-digging where the bore passes underground lines, known as potholing, is required in order to allow crews to see that their rotating drill bit is passing safely. This was not done properly on Cooper Avenue on Feb. 27, according to Consumers Energy officials.

4. DAMAGED PIPE A steel natural gas service line at 4232 Cooper Ave. was damaged, causing gas to migrate into the nearby home and leading to an explosion that killed its owner.

HOW EVENTS UNFOLDED

These are the events that led to the house explosion and death of Daniel Malczynski, 58, according to the report:

5:20 P.M. Consumers Energy crew members working to install a new gas main smelled natural gas and knocked on the front door of the nearest home, where Malczynski lived. There was no answer. The seven-person crew reported the gas leak and left the site, while Consumers sent a gas service worker to respond to the leak.

5:07 P.M. The house at 4232 Cooper Ave. exploded, killing Malczynski and damaging dozens of homes.

5:15 P.M. A Consumers Energy manager arrived on the scene after feeling the Royal Oak Service Center shake. The gas service worker dispatched to check out the gas leak arrived at 5:29 p.m.

Not actual depiction of incident

SOURCES: Consumers Energy, Michigan Public Service Commission

DAVID PERCELE/TROT FREE PRESS



Stakeholders Addressed

- Stakeholders Interests are Included
 - Public & Public Outreach
 - Utility Planning
 - Utility Project Managers
 - Installing Contractor
 - Inspection Company
 - Vacuum Excavation
 - Quality Control
 - Mapping
 - Drain Cleaners
 - IT and Data Preservation
 - Regulators, Rates and Requirements

CBSA's Leading Practices for Cross Bore Risk Reduction



Questions

Get the Leading Practices through your participating organization or through the Cross Bore Safety Association

www.crossboresafety.org