

# POTENTIAL SAFETY RISK

When Responding to a Blocked Sewer Line



[www.sceg.com](http://www.sceg.com)

# Call SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 immediately if you encounter a natural gas **CROSS BORE** or suspect a gas leak.

SCE&G is dedicated to operating and maintaining a safe and reliable natural gas infrastructure. That's why it's important for you, your employees and subcontractors to consider the possibility of a "cross bore" when responding to a blocked sewer line.

Should a cross bore exist and you, your employee or subcontractor uses a mechanical rotary device (auger) to root out the blockage, a serious safety risk could result. Please educate your employees and subcontractors of the safety risks of a natural gas cross bore.

## **What is a natural gas CROSS BORE?**

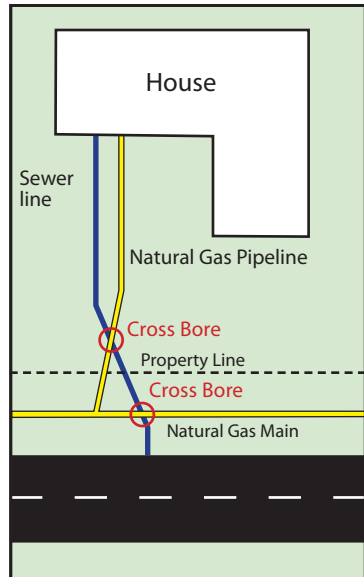
- Natural gas mains and service lines are commonly installed using trenchless technology. Cross bores can occur when natural gas lines are unintentionally bored through sewer system mains and laterals.
- A cross bore can exist for years before sewer lines clog or collapse.
- Cross bores often are discovered when plumbers or other contractors accidentally auger through the natural gas line while attempting to clear the sewer blockage.
- If a gas line is damaged, gas can migrate through sewer lines into homes and buildings, causing potentially dangerous conditions.

## How to avoid a natural gas **CROSS BORE**

- Call South Carolina **811** to have utility lines located before beginning any excavation project.
- Determine the location of sewer facilities such as clean outs and if there has been any recent excavation to install utility lines.
- Use a camera to assess the condition of the sewer line. If you find an obstruction not caused by a root or other plumbing issue, it may be a natural gas line cross bore.

## What to do if a **CROSS BORE** is discovered

- Stop all work immediately.
- Do not attempt to clear the blockage with a mechanical device.
- Call **SCE&G** at **1-800-251-7234** to have a local representative meet you on site.



## What to do if you smell natural gas:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Warn others to stay away.
- From a safe place, call **SCE&G** at **1-800-251-7234** or **911**.
- Do not attempt to turn natural gas valves on or off.
- Do not turn on or off any electric switch; this could cause a spark and ignite the gas.
- Do not use your cell phone or even a flashlight.
- Do not smoke, use a lighter or strike a match.
- Do not start or stop nearby vehicles or other machinery.

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