

# CALL BEFORE YOU CLEAR

## Cross Bore Safety Information From National Fuel Gas Company

### WHAT IS A CROSS BORE?

A cross bore occurs when an underground utility is unintentionally installed through another existing underground utility or structure using trenchless technology. In rare cases, a natural gas pipeline may be unknowingly installed through a sanitary or storm sewer. Cross bores can become hazardous when the sewer line becomes blocked and requires the use of equipment to clear it.

### HOW TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO A CROSS BORED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Perform a thorough investigation of the situation prior to using mechanical equipment to clear sewer blockage.

- Inquire with the property owner if there has been any construction activity in the neighborhood in the last few months and look for trees or landscaping that could have caused an obstruction.
- Inspect the sewer using a camera to determine the cause of the blockage. Do not use a cutting tool. Whenever possible, utilize an outside trap or use minimally invasive equipment such as a plumbing snake or water jet to clear the blockage.
  - **If you suspect that sewer blockage was caused by a natural gas line, please call National Fuel at 1-800-444-3130 and National Fuel will promptly investigate the situation. If you find a cable cross bored through the sewer, call your local electric or telecommunications company.**
- Notify UDig New York by dialing 8-1-1 to determine if the blockage is in the vicinity of utility lines.



Photo from PA1Call.org

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK

- Recognize that gas utility lines are most often made of plastic. Notice if plastic is on the cutting tool when the cutter is withdrawn for inspection. Other types of utility lines may have similar characteristics to observe.
- If you smell natural gas or hear hissing or bubbling sounds coming from the sewer or drain, IMMEDIATELY evacuate all inhabitants and exit the structure.
- Do not flip any electric switches on or off or use any type of phone or electronic device until clear of the structure by a safe distance.
- Evacuate to at least 330 feet - about the length of a football field - away from suspected leaks.
- Once safely clear of the structure, call 911 and National Fuel at 1-800-444-3130.
- Do not go back into the structure under any circumstances and do not return until professionals have cleared the area and structures.



National Fuel®

**Smell Gas? Leave Fast!**  
Then call 1-800-444-3130 from a safe location.