IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE
ABOUT NATURAL GAS CROSS BORES

What is a Cross Bore?
A natural gas cross bore occurs when during installation using threnchless technology, the gas line intersects some other existing underground utility such as a sewer line. This can compromise the integrity of both underground utilities or the underground structure. *It is possible a safety issue could result if the tools used to clean the sewer service line damages a gas line.*

Who does this affect?
• Underground Utility Operators (Water, Sewer, Cable, Telephone, Electric, Natural Gas)
• Plumbers

Make a free call to your local one call before you attempt to clear a sewer blockage using any mechanical equipment.
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?
At the time of the boring, a utility company may not be aware it has bored another utility company’s line. It becomes a problem when the sewer line develops blockage problems and needs to be cleaned.

What happens during the sewer line repair?
While cutting thru 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.

Steps to make sure there are no cross bores when clearing
Pre-Cleaning
1) Call 811 to get 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 blockage

During
1) Do not use a cutting tool
2) Use a snake or water jet to clear the blockage
3) Feel for obstructions that do not seem to resemble roots or other common obstructions

After
1) We recommend that you do not use a cutting tool; however, if you have used one: check blades for yellow, orange, or black plastic that is taken out of the sewer line.
2) Look for bubbles, indicating that natural gas is escaping. Especially at the entry point, such as toilets or drains.
3) Inspect the area with a gas detection device.