

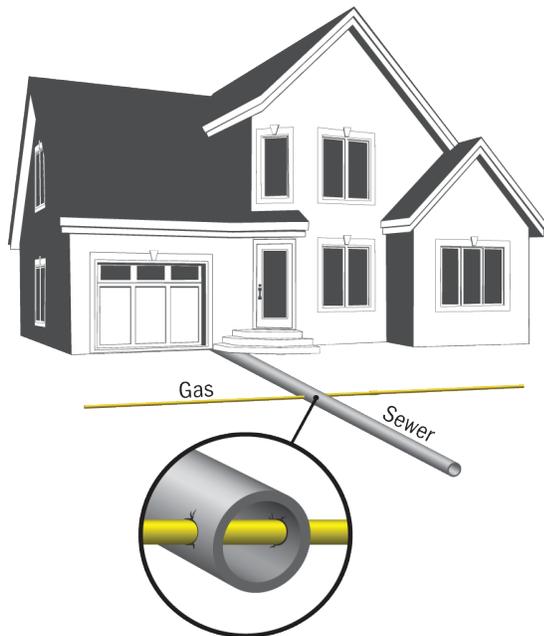
HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY

Gas Line and Sewer Service Line Conflicts

What you need to know before clearing a blocked sewer service line

Natural gas lines can sometimes inadvertently intersect with sewer lines beyond the outside walls of a house or building. Clearing a blocked sewer service line outside the walls of a building with rotating or water-jetting (flushing) equipment could damage the intersecting natural gas line. Damaging a natural gas line could lead to a gas leak, fire or explosion.

A utility cross bore (or conflict) occurs when one underground utility unintentionally intersects another existing underground utility. This can occur during construction that uses trenchless technologies.



Protect yourself, your employees, and others

It is possible that a natural gas line installed using trenchless practices may have inadvertently penetrated a sewer service line and remained undetected for years. Unless the natural gas line is damaged, it does not pose an immediate safety risk. Without interference, the natural gas service line is safe.

However, **if rotating equipment** (such as a motorized auger, power snake or other root-cutting equipment) **or water jetting (flushing) equipment makes contact with a gas line, it could** cause damage which could potentially **result in a gas leak, fire or explosion.**

Buildings without natural gas service lines may also be affected.

What you need to do before clearing a blocked sewer service line

Call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 and ask for a **free Natural Gas Sewer Safety Inspection** before clearing a blocked sewer service line beyond the outside walls of a building. You can reach Ontario One Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Once a Sewer Safety Inspection has been requested,

- ▶ Ontario One Call will dispatch a natural gas utility representative on an emergency basis within two hours or at a later mutually scheduled time.
- ▶ The utility representative will perform a sewer safety inspection, which may include locating the natural gas line, locating the sewer line and performing a video inspection of the sewer line to determine if there is a conflict.
- ▶ If the sewer safety inspection cannot eliminate the possibility of a cross bore, the utility provider will excavate the site and visually inspect for the presence of a cross bore. If a conflict does exist, the utility provider will work with the homeowner and/or the municipality to correct the problem and make the necessary repairs.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, **evacuate the building immediately and call 911** or your local natural gas distribution emergency number from a safe distance.

Signs that a natural gas line has been damaged during the clearing of a sewer service line could include bubbling water, a hissing sound, natural gas odour, or blowing dirt.

The Natural Gas Sewer Safety Inspection may temporarily unclog or drain the sewer service line. However, this may not prevent the blockage from recurring. Sewer service line clearing may still be required.

A publication of the Service Sector Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee in partnership with IHSA

This information is part of ongoing safety communications by Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas to raise awareness regarding the importance of calling Ontario One Call before any work begins to clear a blocked sewer line beyond the outside walls of a building. The Technical Standards and Safety Authority requires natural gas distributors to have a program and public awareness campaign about sewer safety.

Please contact your local natural gas distribution utility for more information. You can also request brochures appropriate for consumers and plumbers, municipal sewer operators or property managers.



www.enbridgegas.com/sewersafety



www.uniongas.com/safety