

MOCGA Tailgate Talk

Avoiding Crossbores



Introduction: Crossbores occur when horizontal directional drilling (HDD) equipment bores a new utility line through an existing utility line. Crossbores are extremely dangerous when they involve hazardous products like propane, natural gas, petroleum liquids, electricity, steam or water. These products can escape, causing injuries, fires and explosions. Communications and electrical crossbores can create outages and data interruptions. Reduce your risk by reviewing this document with your crews.

BE SAFE!

SAFETY TIPS FOR AVOIDING CROSSBORES

- ✓ Example: When gas lines are bored through sewers, plumbers will use cleanout augers to clear the blockage. They'll inadvertently cut the crossbored gas line causing leaks that migrate into homes and sewers. Injuries, fires and explosions can result.
- ✓ Make sure the utility locate request has been submitted and use ITIC to make sure all utilities have responded.
- ✓ In city alleys and along roadsides, utility lines can be congested and stacked atop one another.
- ✓ Do a walk-around survey of the work area. Look for manhole lids, sewer cleanouts, etc. Get the best approximate location & depth for all sewer laterals.
- ✓ Ask homeowners / property owners about their utility locations. They may have information about private lines that may not be located through the one-call system.
- ✓ Communicate! If you're concerned about the possibility of a crossbore, contact the local utility for a face-to-face meeting at the jobsite.
- ✓ Respect the marks. It's recommended that crews pothole down and watch the bore head pass the exposed utility.
- ✓ Potholing (also known as daylighting) with vacuum excavators or by hand-digging (soft excavation) is very important because the drill crew can visually confirm that utilities in the drill path are not contacted.
- ✓ Mark & pothole where utilities cross the bore path, and make sure the hole is deep enough to visually see the bore head pass by the exposed utility line.
- ✓ Use a spotter to visually check for the drill head as it passes potholes, entrance and exit pits. Your spotter must be authorized to stop the drill operation immediately.
- ✓ Calibrate all HDD transmitter / receiver information per equipment owner's manual instructions.
- ✓ Backreaming can cause damage. Leave enough room to backream without striking a crossing line.
- ✓ The best way to avoid crossbores is by exposing utilities to verify that the drill head has passed by safely.

CROSSBORES ARE LIKELY WHEN CREWS ARE "BLIND BORING" WITHOUT VERIFYING UTILITY LOCATIONS AND POTHOLING.



POTHOLING: EXCAVATE EVERYWHERE A CROSSING UTILITY IS ENCOUNTERED.



WHEN YOU'RE WORKING IN THE CITY, THE SHEER QUANTITY OF UTILITIES MEANS A CROSSBORE IS VERY POSSIBLE.



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 02-16-2019 by MW

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DATE OF TRAINING	INSTRUCTOR NAME
COMPANY NAME	LOCATION OF TRAINING
PARTICIPANT NAMES	
SAFETY MEETING NOTES	