# **Cross Bores Inspections**

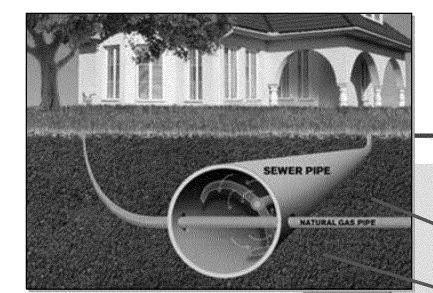
**Distribution Integrity Management** 

May, 2014



### What is a Cross Bore?

City Street



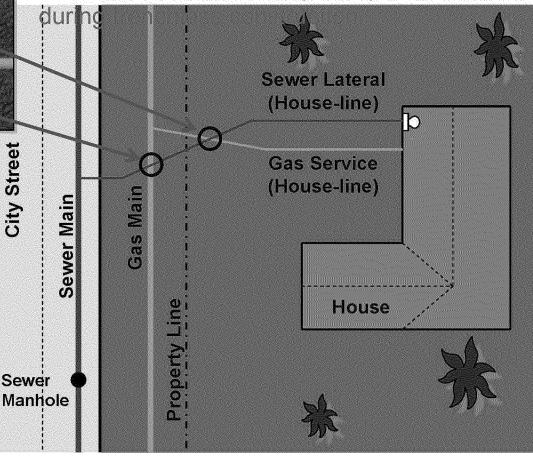
#### What is a cross bore?

A cross bore is the inadvertent placement of a gas main or service through a sewer

line. Sewer cross bores typically occur

### What can happen as a resu a cross bore?

The sewer line may become blocked and need to be clea by a plumber or the building owner with mechanical clear tools. This may cause the ga line to be cut which could cal a release of gas.





## Cross Bores – An Industry Issue

### 1976: First recorded instance of a Cross Bore

- Kenosha Wisconsin
- Fire, explosion, four injuries, one home destroyed and two adjacent homes damaged
- Investigated by NTSB

#### 2004: Phoenix Arizona

 Fire, explosion, four injuries one home destroyed

#### **New York State**

Fire, explosion, one fatality, one home destroyed

#### 2010: St. Paul Minnesota

Fire, explosion, one injury, one home destroyed

AGA publishes report on Gas Pipelines and Unmarked Sewer Lines.

#### 2002: Minneapolis Minnesota

Fire, explosion and two homes destroyed

2008: Cross Bore Safety
Association formed, a non-profit
organization of construction, pipe
manufacturer, inspectors and
utility professionals

- Eighteen known cross bore incidents in U.S. since 2002<sup>1</sup>
- Industry average cross bores estimated at 2-3 per mile of gas pipe and can be higher regionally, especially if sewer and gas lines are installed at the same depth<sup>2</sup>
- Incident in Minnesota resulted in a state mandated program to address cross bores<sup>3</sup>

Institute (GTI) publishes report on Cross-Bores Best Practice and Outreach Program

2012: Gas Technology

Best practices focus on:

 Compliance, resources, awareness, records and risk assessment and mitigation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GTI "Mitigating the Risk of Cross-Bores", presentation to Northeast Gas Association, October 4, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cross Bore Safety Association (CBSA), Legacy Cross Bores

Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal and Pipeline Safety, Alert Notice, May 10, 2010

## PG&E's History with Cross Bores

#### 2007

Began investigating the potential of cross bores on PG&E's gas distribution system

#### 2011

 Initiated Cross Bore Safety Program as a mitigation measure based on the results of the risk analysis performed as part of the Distribution Integrity Management Program

#### 2013

- Increased number of legacy inspections under Cross Bore Safety Program
- Increased focus on current trenchless technology practices to prevent crossbores

#### 2010

 Implemented requirements to perform inspections on service replacement postconstruction

#### 2012

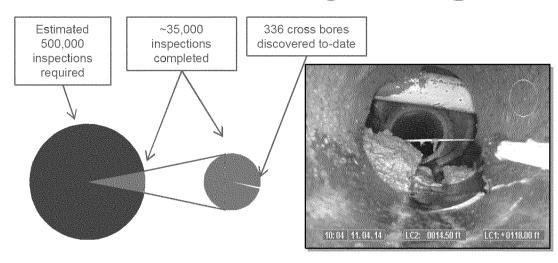
- · Initiated inspections to identify legacy cross bores
- Filed request in 2014 GRC to ramp up number of inspections conducted under Cross Bore Safety Program

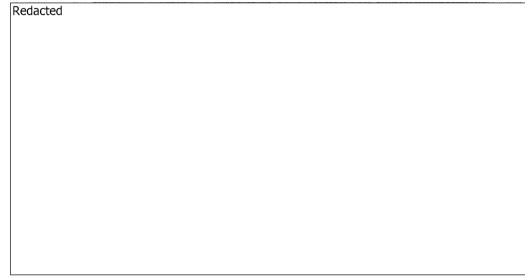


# PF&F PG&E's Cross Bore Safety Program

#### Legacy Inspections

- Camera inspections of sewer mains and laterals to locate potential legacy cross bores
- Risk-based prioritization of inspections based on public assembly locations and population density (e.g., schools, hospitals)
- Inspections focused on known locations of boring technology use
- · Rigorous tracking of inspected parcels

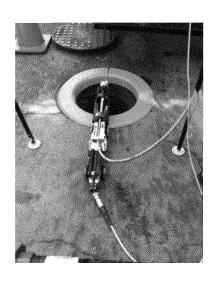




## Inspection Methods

#### Camera equipment is either

- Inserted into a sewer manhole and launched up each individual sewer lateral
- Inserted through a toilet, trap, or cleanout at the house and pushed to the street







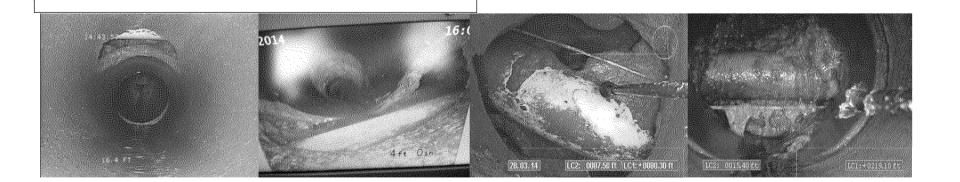


### Tracking, Notification and Repair Process

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#### When a cross bore is identified:

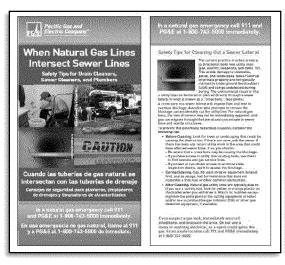
- Owner of sewer notified
- PG&E crews dispatched if blockage condition exists
- Gas line relocated out of sewer lateral
- Sewer repaired by licensed plumber
- Find rate is approximately 1 per 1,000 inspections or roughly 2 per mile of main, consistent with industry experience



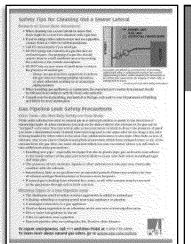


# Outreach and Education

- Materials distributed to key stakeholders explaining cross bores and requesting appropriate action when a cross bore is suspected.
- In 2012, PG&E sent safety brochures on Cross Bores to 12,500 sewer districts, public works agencies, plumbers, and equipment rental stores.
- In 2013, we completed two notifications totaling 25,000 brochures with an additional 283 mailings to sewer agencies and plumber unions.
- In 2014, in addition to our stakeholder mailings, we included cross bore information in March as a bill insert.

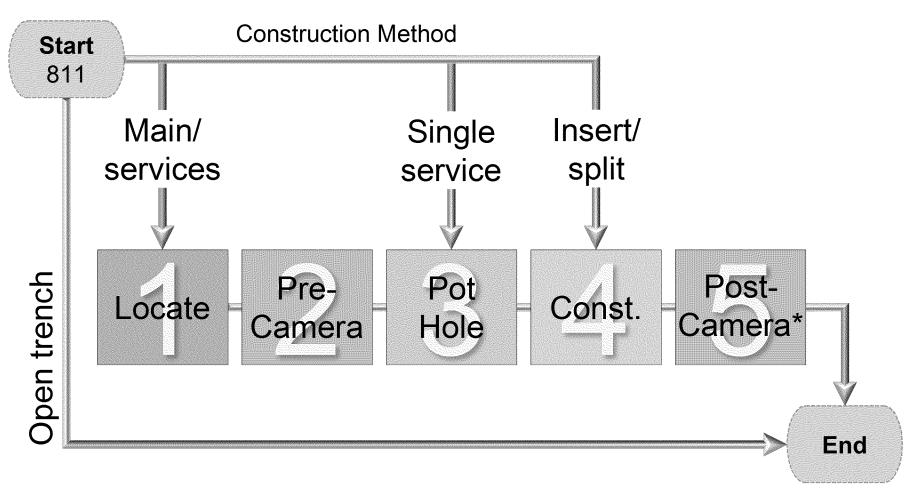








## Cross Bore Prevention Process



<sup>\*</sup>Perform before job closeout if pre-locate was completed. Perform within 24 hours if NO pre-locate was completed.

Program	Benchmark Source	Comments
Legacy	American Gas Association Survey	PG&E provides public outreach consistent with the industry best practices.
		Not all utilities have legacy inspection programs.
	American Gas Association Survey	PG&E's new procedures implements best practices to ensure crossbores are not created given the
	Gas Technology Institute (GTI)	combination of the pre-camera, pothole and post-camera inspections.
	Local and National Contractors	
Prevention		
	Other Major US Utilities	PG&E is not only consistent with practices followed by other major US utilities but also meets best practices outlined in GTI's "Cross Bore Best Practices – Best Practices Guide".