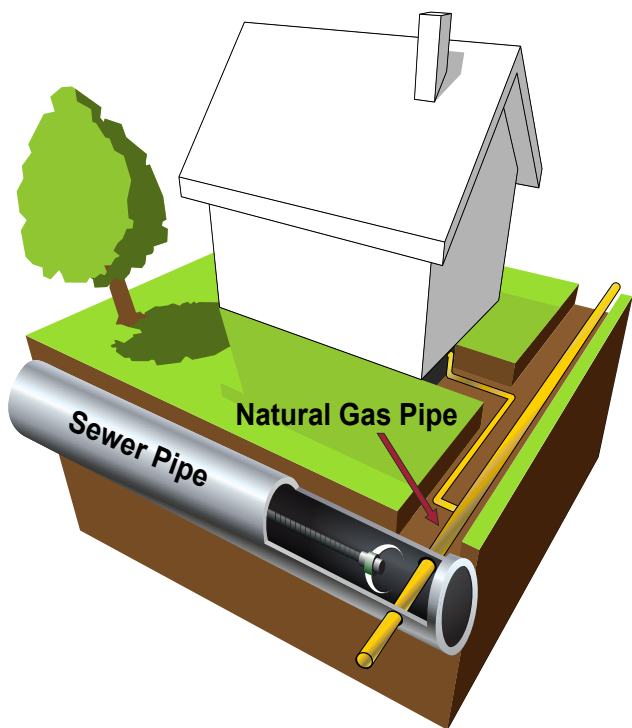


# Sewer Line Safety

## Preventing Natural Gas Emergencies



*Important Safety Procedures for Plumbers,  
Excavators, Homeowners and Business  
Owners from New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG)*



**New Jersey  
Natural Gas**

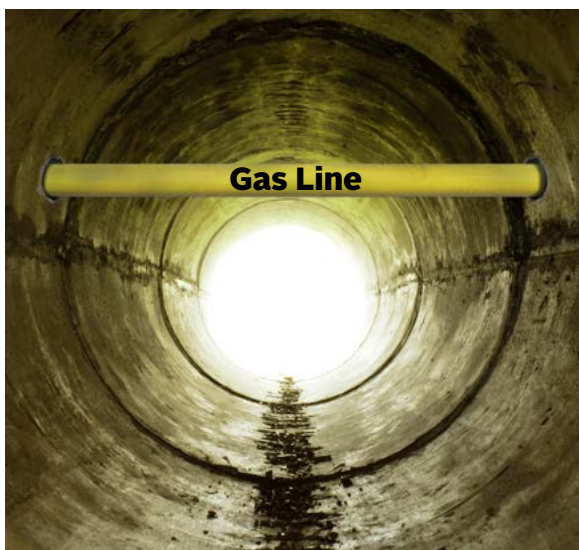
**24-hour emergency phone line  
800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325)**

[www.njng.com/safety](http://www.njng.com/safety)

Today, directional drilling (also known as trenchless technology) is a common method of installing underground infrastructure (for example, natural gas, electric, communications, water), which avoids damage to sidewalks, patios and landscaping. There are times when these utility lines have been inadvertently installed through sewer pipe laterals. This can create a potentially hazardous situation.

The presence of a utility line in a sewer pipe lateral is known as a “cross bore” and can go undetected for months — even years. Damage is often not discovered until future work is being done. A cross bore in a sewer lateral will impede flow and could, eventually, lead to a blockage. Once this happens, a plumber or contractor may attempt to clear the lateral using a mechanical rotary device or roofer that can damage the buried utility lines.

Damage to a natural gas line could lead to the release of natural gas and result in a fire, accident or explosion that could cause significant property damage, injury or even death.



# **Cross Bore**

## **Safety Precautions Are a Must!**

Before starting the process of cleaning out a sewer lateral:

- ***Ask the property owner about the location of sewer facilities and look for a sewer lateral tag on the sewer clean out or under the kitchen drain pipe.***
- ***Check if there have been any recent excavations to install utility lines on your street.***
- ***Use a camera to assess the condition of the sewer lateral.***

If you have questions or need any assistance with the natural gas service line, call NJNG at 800-221-0051.

If you reasonably suspect or determine the blockage is caused by a cross bore:

- ***Stop all work.***
- ***Do not use a drain roter to clear a line until the obstruction has been identified.***
- ***Contact NJNG at 800-221-0051 and say “sewer.”***

## Emergency Procedures

During the sewer cleaning process be alert to anything unusual that could signal a natural gas leak:

Sound	Sight	Smell
Hissing	Bubbling water	Rotten egg odor
Whistling	Blowing dirt	
Roaring	Dying vegetation	

### In the Event of an Emergency

If any signs of a natural gas leak are present:

- ***Leave the premises or area immediately and instruct others to leave.***
- ***Call 911 from a safe location then call NJNG at 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325).***
- ***Do not operate any equipment .***
- ***Do not use anything in the area that may create a spark or an ignition source – such as a phone, doorbell or garage door opener.***
- ***Do not re-enter the building or proceed with any work until NJNG has declared it to be safe.***

For your safety, NJNG promptly investigates suspected natural gas leaks as a FREE service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**At NJNG, safety  
is our top priority.  
Make it yours too!**





1415 Wyckoff Road  
P.O. Box 1464  
Wall, NJ 07719

For more information or additional  
copies of this brochure, call

**732-378-4965**

or e-mail [safetyawareness@njng.com](mailto:safetyawareness@njng.com).

*For additional information on natural gas  
safety, please visit [njng.com/safety](http://njng.com/safety).*



**Know what's below.  
Call 811 before you dig.**