



Sewer Cross Bores

MNOPS issued an ["Alert Notice"](#) to all gas pipeline operators on May 10, 2010. The intent of the notice was to "provide guidance for gas pipeline installers on acceptable installation practices and documentation requirements when installing gas mains and services".

A few highlights of the notice:

- MNOPS is aware of at least 155 cross bores of gas lines through privately owned sewer laterals
- In six cases these lines have been punctured by sewer cleaning contractors, half of these ignited resulting in significant injuries and property damage
- There are six acceptable methods for verifying that newly installed lines are not located in sewer laterals. Every pipeline installation must be protected using one or more of these methods. The technique used to prevent cross bore must be documented.

The six acceptable methods are (see the [actual Notice](#) for more detail):

- open trenching the width of the property
- review of site and verification that no conflict between gas and sewer lateral is possible due to location
- potholing the sewer during any boring operations
- using sondes to verify adequate vertical separation
- determining the minimum possible depth of the sewer lateral by entering the structure and measuring the depth the line exits the building
- televising the sewer lateral after the gas line installation is complete and before the line is gassed up.

Just like many other pipeline tasks, compliance will rely heavily on record keeping. In order to help you, a form that can be used to demonstrate compliance is attached to the email this newsletter is in. I've reviewed this form with Tom Prew at MNOPS and he felt that it would demonstrate compliance as long as it was properly completed.

One item to note: you need to document how you are avoiding cross bores on every install, not just when using trenchless technology. This does not apply to directional drilling only, but also to conventional (pneumatic) bores, plowing pipe, and open trench installations.

Code Corner

Public Awareness, again.

Just a reminder-Public Awareness programs were required to be in place by June 20, 2006. Within four years of that date, you must have completed your baseline evaluation of effectiveness. That's only a few weeks away so make sure you have this done and documented.

Many of you have elected to use the "GOAL" program offered by the APGA for this purpose. Others are doing their own surveys. However you have decided to do this, please make sure that you are able to demonstrate compliance with this requirement by June 20.

After the baseline survey is complete, you need to do evaluations of effectiveness every four years.

If you have questions about this time frame or how to proceed feel free to contact me so we can figure out the next step.

MNOPS Inspections

Our first MNOPS inspections of 2010 are now history. While this is very early information, I can say you will be familiar with the inspection format. The questions are the same ones that have been used in the past.

So far the new inspectors have been accompanied by an experienced person. I'll keep you posted on any new developments that might come up in future inspections.

Just about all of you should have a confirmed inspection date now. If you have questions about when your inspection is scheduled, PLEASE let me know so we can get it clarified. Since we are starting later than normal this year the inspection schedule is pretty tight.

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