

Learn to Recognize Gas Leaks

Ameren Illinois injects an odorant into natural gas to help people detect natural gas leaks. It usually smells like sulfur or rotten eggs, but in some instances, this odor may not be apparent. So also LOOK and LISTEN for natural gas leaks, and stay alert for ANY of these warning signs:

- A distinctive, sulfur-like odor
- Continuous bubbling in water
- A hissing, whistling or roaring sound
- Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near a pipeline
- Dirt or water spraying or blowing into the air
- An exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster
- A damaged connection to a gas appliance

If you suspect a gas leak, warn others, leave the area quickly, and call 911 and Ameren Illinois immediately at 1.800.755.5000.



If you work for a municipality:

- Be alert for cross bores in sewer mains and review the precautions in this brochure before attempting to clear any blockage.
- If you see construction in an area where you know there are sewer lines, stop and discuss the cross bore issue with them.

For more safety tips, visit amerenillinois.e-smartworkers.com



Safety Materials Distribution
104 Bridge Road
Salisbury, MA 01952



Learn About Cross Bore Safety



www.crossboresafety.org

Caution: Natural Gas or Electric Lines May Block Sewer Lines

Safety Tips for Plumbers, Sewer Cleaners and Drain Cleaners

An Important Safety Message About a Hidden Hazard

Please review this safety brochure carefully and share these procedures with employees and co-workers. Post in common areas, such as your meeting room or work trailer. For more about cross bore safety, plus additional safety tips and training videos, visit amerenillinois.e-smartworkers.com and click the Cross Bore Safety link.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

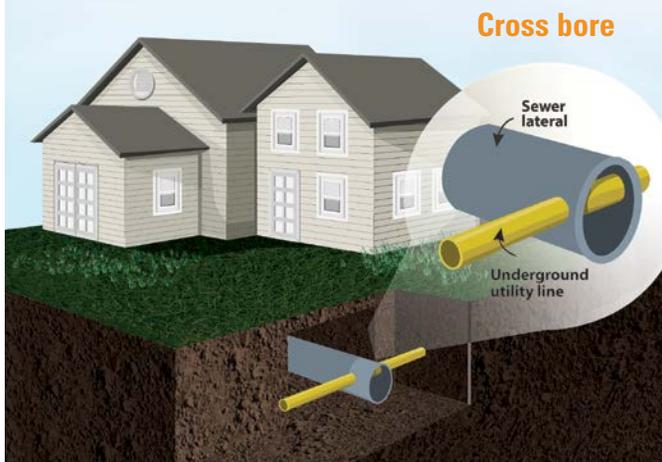
Call 811 or enter an online locate request at www.illinois1call.com at least two full business days (excluding weekends and holidays) before you dig or move earth in any way.

Be Alert for Cross Bores in Sewer Lines!

Utility Lines May Intersect Sewer Lines

Ameren Illinois uses various boring techniques to install underground gas piping and electric lines. Despite the precautions we take, on rare occasions a bore may puncture a sewer line. As a result, a utility line can be unintentionally installed directly through a sewer line in what is known as a "cross bore."

Pipe configurations vary



A cross bore that intersects a sewer line will impede the flow of sewage and eventually lead to a blockage. Clearing the blockage can damage the utility line, creating a potentially dangerous situation. For example, a nicked or severed pipe could allow natural gas to enter a building, and a damaged electric line could allow contact with high-voltage electric current.

If you encounter a blockage in a sewer line, it could be a cross bore. **If you suspect a cross bore, please suspend work activity and call Ameren Illinois at 1.800.755.5000.** We will promptly inspect the situation and make any necessary corrections to support public safety and the safety of your workers.

Take These Cross Bore Precautions

Take these steps before, during and after you attempt to clear a blockage in any sewer line:

- **Before Cleaning.** Call 811 so facility owners can mark the location of their underground lines at the property. If these marks cross the path of the sewer line, a cross bore may be causing the blockage. Also ask the property owner about any recent nearby utility installation work that could have created a cross bore. If you suspect a cross bore is causing the blockage, take these precautions:
 - If you own or can obtain access to an inline camera, use it to assess the blockage before attempting to clear it. If the camera view is obstructed due to the clog, vacuum it out first.
 - If a camera is not available, run a hydro-jetter through the line to clear it. Do not use a cutting tool.
- **During Cleaning.** If you cannot verify the nature of the obstruction, use the least invasive equipment possible, such as a hydro-jetter. If you sense resistance that does not resemble a tree root or other common obstruction, do not force it. **Stop immediately and call Ameren Illinois at 1.800.755.5000.**
- **After Cleaning.** Natural gas pipes are typically plastic; electric lines may be directly buried or run through a conduit. If you have used a cutting tool, look for yellow, orange or gray plastic on the blades when you withdraw it. Watch for bubbles escaping from the entry point of the clearing equipment or toilet and/or use a combustible gas indicator or other gas detection equipment, if available. **If you think you have hit a gas or electric line, act fast! Follow the steps noted in the adjacent section, even if damage appears minor.**

Coronavirus Cross-Bore Risk

Frequent cleaning with disinfecting wipes during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in sewer blockages as families flush used wipes instead of throwing them in the trash. This heightens the risk of plumbers encountering existing cross bores. Dispose of disinfecting wipes in waste bins instead of flushing them, and encourage your family, friends and customers to do the same.

If You Hit a Gas Line

- **Immediately warn others and evacuate the area; if indoors, immediately evacuate the premises.** From a safe location, call 911 and Ameren Illinois at 1.800.755.5000.
- **Extinguish all open flames.** Do not use matches or lighters, and do not attempt to light an appliance.
- **Do not use any phones, electric switches, thermostats or appliance controls.** All of these devices, including battery-operated equipment, can cause sparks and ignite natural gas.
- **Do not start or turn off vehicles or motorized equipment.** Abandon any motorized equipment you may be operating.
- **Do not attempt to find the source of the leak** or to repair a leak.
- **Do not operate underground gas valves.**
- **Stay far away from the area** until safety officials say it is safe to return.

If you suspect a gas leak, warn others, leave the area quickly, and call 911 and Ameren Illinois immediately at 1.800.755.5000.

If You Hit an Electric Line

- **Call Ameren Illinois immediately** for any electric line contact.
- **Leave the premises and abandon tools and equipment.** Equipment that remains in contact with a buried power line poses a serious electric shock hazard.
- **Stay away from the area,** and warn others to stay away until Ameren Illinois' personnel tell you it is safe to return.
- **If someone has been shocked,** call 911 immediately.

If you are on equipment and there is no immediate danger, stay on the equipment, warn others away and have someone call 911 and Ameren Illinois. If fire or other danger forces you off, do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Jump clear, land with your feet together and shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground at all times.

If you work with natural gas fuel lines, please take these precautions:

- Always use a combustible gas indicator (CGI) or other gas detection equipment during purging operations or when otherwise working on or around gas piping systems. **Do NOT rely on your sense of smell alone to detect the presence of natural gas.** Never purge the contents of a gas line into an enclosed space. Discharge directly to an outdoor location, per the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54 8.3.1.3).