

Preventing Natural Gas Emergencies

FACTS

Directional drilling is an economical, non-destructive (i.e., trenchless) method of installing underground infrastructure. New or replaced natural gas facilities may have been installed through the use of directional drilling or other types of trenchless technology. Before new infrastructure is installed using trenchless technology, existing utilities typically are located through technical equipment or records. However, if the location of the existing utilities is unknown, damage can occur. Although it is typical for the damage to be quickly identified, it may take years for a damaged facility to fail. Damage may also go undetected until future work is done.

If damage results from penetration of a sewer lateral, a potentially hazardous situation exists. This is because sewer laterals are typically cleaned out through the use of mechanical purging equipment (roter) that has the ability to damage buried utilities. Collapsed sewer walls can also cause the roter equipment to be misdirected outside of the sewer, bringing the equipment dangerously close to other buried utilities.

Damage to a natural gas service line can lead to:

- Gas leak/gas migration
- Fire
- Explosion

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Before starting the process of **cleaning** out a sewer lateral, remember to:

- Follow your state's Call Before You Dig law
- Look for a Sewer Lateral Tag on the sewer clean out or under the kitchen drain pipe (If not present, ask if a Sewer Lateral Tag was delivered to the property)

- Use a camera to identify the condition of the sewer lateral
- Contact Duke Energy at 513-421-9500 or 1-800-634-4300 for assistance in locating natural gas service lines
- Determine whether the natural gas service line to the property has been recently installed or upgraded
- Determine whether there has been any recent excavation in the area

AWARENESS OF WORK CONDITIONS

During the process of cleaning out a sewer lateral, be alert to any unusual conditions, which may include:

- Hissing sounds
- Natural gas odor
- Blowing dirt
- Bubbling water

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

If you suspect a gas leak or that contact with a natural gas line has occurred:

- Leave the premises immediately
- Instruct others to leave the premises immediately
- Contact Duke Energy from a safe location at 513-651-4466 or 1-800-634-4300
- Call 911
- Keep others a safe distance away

DO NOT:

- Operate any electricity while in the premises
- Operate any pipeline system equipment
- Turn vehicles or equipment on or off
- Use anything that might create a spark, such as a cell phone or matches without first leaving the area and arriving at a safe location

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG CONTACT INFORMATION

Before starting any underground work, always contact your state underground protection service to identify the location of underground facilities.

Kentucky Dig Safely

1-800-752-6007

www.kentucky811.org

Ohio Utilities Protection Service

1-800-362-2764

www.oups.org

DUKE ENERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Duke Energy.

513-421-9500

1-800-544-6900



SEWER LATERAL WORK



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Before performing any type of work on a sewer lateral, precautionary steps should be taken to prevent damage to underground infrastructure.

