

GUCC Crossbores Committee – October 2019 – Dillard GA			
Name	Company	Email	Attendance (Yes/No)
Danny Boswell	Gunter Construction	dboswell@gunterconst.com	Yes
Lisa Clark McKnight	City of Lawrenceville GA	lisa.mcknight@lawrencevillegaweb.org	Yes
Rick Slagle	Southern Co Gas	rslagle@aglresources.com	Yes
Mike Bell	Georgia 811	mbell@georgia811.com	Yes
Holly Files	Georgia 811	hfiles@ga811.com	Yes
Matt Bergen	Fayette County Water	mbergen@fayettecountyga.gov	Yes
Bob Gibbs	Walton EMC	bgibbs@waltonemc.com	Yes
Eric Hedden	Ansco LLC	eric.hedden@anscollc.com	Yes
Jim Laplander	City of Savannah W & S	jlaplander@savannahga.gov	Yes
Rick Lonn	Southern Gas	rlonn@southernco.com	No
Wendell Holbrook	Cobb County	Rob.Holbrook@cobbcounty.org	No
Joey Martin	ER Snell	jmartin@ersnell.com	No
Roy Rogers	Blount Construction	roy.rogers@blountconstruction.com	No
Lance Varenas	Utiliquest	lance.varenas@utiliquest.com	No
Boyd Cunningham	Clayton County Water Authority	boyd.cummings@ccwa.us	No
T. Hinton	Georgia DOT	thinton@dot.ga.gov;	No
David D.	City of Thomasville GA	davidd@thomasville.org	No
M. Monroe	Southern Company	mimonroe@southernco.com	No

Topics Discussed:

TOPIC 1: After introductions - Common Ground Alliance Cross-Bore Best Practice – TR 2014-02

TRANSACTION RECORD - <https://commongroundalliance.com/best-practices/best-practices-guide/811-cross-bore-determination-and-mitigation>

Purpose: Cross Bore Determination and Mitigation – a process plumbers, Sanitary and Storm Sewer Organizations, Septic System Operators, sewer clearing contractors and property owners follow prior to the use of cutting type drain clearing equipment being inserted into a sewer lateral or main.

Origin/Rationale: Cross Bores have been a growing problem for more than 30 years. The use of Trenchless Technology such as Horizontal Directional Drilling and pneumatic piercing tools during facility installations provides for CLEARING work to be done without knowing a problem

may exist. The large number of private sewer laterals and the unwillingness by a number of Sewer Agencies to participate in One Call or the policy of not locating appurtenances which fostered the growth of this Problem. NTSB, PHMSA, OTD and the Cross Bore Safety Association along with scores of Natural Gas distribution companies have undertaken a monumental effort to educate Plumbers, Homeowners and trenchless installation Stakeholders in the danger of Cross Bores over the past few decades. Use of the HDD Good Practices and CGA Best Practices can significantly reduce if not eliminate the danger related to these intrusions.

“Cross Bores” - an intrusion of an existing underground utility or underground structure by a second utility resulting in direct contact between the transactions of the utilities that compromises the integrity of either the utility or underground structure.

Committee Comment – an in-field practice was not specifically ‘spelled out’. Only “Use of the HDD Good Practices and CGA Best Practices can significantly reduce if not eliminate the danger related to these intrusions.”

TOPIC 2: Relation between Sewer Lateral and Cross-bores and specific relating sections of GUFPA

Laplander stated that the cross-bore issue and sewer lateral marking and locating are very much interrelated. The reason for cross-bores typically gets blamed on sewer laterals not being located by the sewer operator service provider (this is a discussion for another time). Cross-bores occur from gas main bores, telecommunication bores, underground power bores and even pole anchors through sanitary sewer mains and storm mains and to a lesser extent water main / service damages. These ‘intrusions’ (see above definition) cause blockages in the respective mains and service laterals which subsequently cause sewer backups into homes or stoppages in storm drainage mains and must be removed. If these removals are done w/o the knowledge of the facility blocking the pipe, facilities can be damaged and cause public safety workers trying to correct these issues.

The sewer lateral from the house to the City of Savannah sewer main, as it is in a majority of municipalities throughout the Country are actually private facilities and belong to the property owner. Maintenance of these laterals is responsibility of the property owner.

In some municipalities however the sewer lateral from the property line to the house / building is the only private section. These ownership are typically addressed in the municipal water and sewer utility ordinances as approved by Mayor and Aldermen, County Commission or other Governmental body.

To address the issue of locating these ‘private facilities’ the Georgia ‘Dig Law’ addresses that Sewer System / Operator / Service providers are required to assist in the locating and marking of sewer laterals. This assistance is described in the section of this Law below:

§ 25-9-7. Determining whether utility facilities are present; information to UPC; noncompliance; future utility facilities; abandoned utility facilities

(2) To assist in designating sewer laterals, the sewer system owner or operator shall provide its best available information regarding the location of the sewer laterals to the excavator. This

information shall be conveyed to the excavator in a manner that may include, but shall not be limited to, any one of the following methods:

(A) Marking the location of sewer laterals in accordance with subsection (a) of this section; provided that:

(i) Any sewer lateral designated using the best available information shall constitute a good faith attempt and shall be deemed to be in compliance with this subsection, provided that such mark represents only the best available information of the sewer system owner or operator and may not be accurate; and

(ii) If a sewer lateral is un-locatable, a triangular green mark shall be placed at the sewer main pointing at the address in question to indicate the presence of an un-locatable sewer lateral;

(B) Providing electronic copies of or delivering the records through facsimile or by other means to an agreed upon location within 48 hours beginning the next business day following receipt by the UPC of the locate request filed in accordance with Code Section 259-6, excluding hours during days other than business days; provided, however, that for local governing authorities that receive fewer than 50 locate requests annually, the local governing authority may designate the agreed upon location and communicate such designation to the excavator;

(C) Arranging to meet the excavator on site to provide the best available information about the location of the sewer laterals;

(D) Providing the records through other processes and to other locations approved by documented agreement between the excavator and the facility owner or operator; or

(E) Any other reasonable means of conveyance approved by the commission after receiving recommendations from the advisory committee, provided that such means are equivalent to or exceed the provisions of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph

Committee comment -there was concerns if this 'assistance' was actually being provided however.

Directional Drilling is addressed as "Horizontal directional drilling" and in trenchless excavation in GUFPA under § 25-9-3. **Definitions**

(17) "Horizontal directional drilling" or "HDD" means a type of trenchless excavation that uses guidable boring equipment to excavate in an essentially horizontal plane without disturbing or with minimal disturbance to the ground surface.

(35) "Trenchless excavation" means a method of excavation that uses boring equipment to excavate with minimal or no disturbance to the ground surface and includes horizontal directional drilling.

Under § 25-9-8. **Treatment of gas pipes and other underground utility facilities by blasters and excavators**, directional drilling is also addressed ...

(d) When conducting trenchless excavation the excavator must exercise reasonable care, as described in subsection (b) of this Code section, and shall take additional care to attempt to prevent damage to utility facilities and sewer laterals. The recommendations of the HDD consortium applicable to the performance of trenchless excavation set out in the document "Horizontal Directional Drilling Good Practice Guidelines," dated May, 2001, are adopted by reference as a part of this subsection to describe such

additional care. The advisory committee may recommend to the commission more stringent criteria as it deems necessary to define additional care and the commission is authorized to adopt additional criteria to define additional care.

Committee Comment – the Horizontal Directional Drilling Good Practices Guidelines, is for the May, 2001 edition

NOTE: the relationship between sewer lateral locates and cross-bores has been very contentious subject in the past and folks are passionate and have strong opinions on both sides on how to resolve the cross-bore issue. All entities involved must be non-adversarial and be able to compromise. It is a national issue and the Common Ground Alliance can't agree on a best practice on locating of sewer laterals.

Topic 3: Discussed the need for education of Plumbers, Sewer Agencies and others concerning cross-bores and specifically the dangers when sewer lateral clearing was done

'Call Before You Clear' (<https://callbeforeyouclear.com/>) was discussed. This was only discussed since it would require a major change and addition to the existing GUFPA.

Committee Comment - the committee settled on the need for education for Plumbers, Sewer Agencies and others concerning cross-bores and specifically the dangers when sewer lateral clearing is done, typically on legacy bores.

Topic 4: Present methods to avoid cross-bores were discussed

Committee Comment - Laplander discussed utilization of municipal (Savannah) Traffic Permit where conditions for directional drilling being done inside municipal limits included verification that cross-bores did not occur. These conditions included:

- Drilling below the sewer main invert to avoid the laterals;
- Televising (both pre and post televising were discussed) sewer main and lateral to assure cross-bores did not occur. Both utilization of televising truck or individual lateral televising through in house plumbing fixtures and utilization of sondes to locate the lateral;
- Excavation to find lateral;

Committee Comment - Bergen discussed making new laterals to be locatable. Holly F stated that this has been required since 2006. The City of Savannah does do this at present as do other sewer service providers.

Committee Comment - there was discussion that Emergency Tickets are sometimes called in by Plumbers when they have to clear a stoppage in a lateral. Holly F said this is not an Emergency and is a violation of using an Emergency Ticket.

NOTE: I (Laplander) have thought of this and in the definition of an 'Emergency' per the Dig-Law

(10) "Emergency" means a sudden or unforeseen occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger to life, health, or property; the interruption of utility services; or repairs to transportation facilities that require immediate action).

Sewage backing up into a home is a very serious health issue. This will have to be discussed further.

Committee Comment - use of Ground Penetrating Radar was also discussed. Both Fayette County and the City of Savannah have and utilize GPR units in their utility locating. This method of locating can be utilized in locating but in certain conditions – i.e., clay soil or where water is evident – it does not give accurate results. In a telecommunication Large Project directional drill in West Savannah, the contractor utilized a locating company out of Jacksonville Florida that used GPR and it appeared to have located existing – an old/abandoned utilities.

Topic 5: Legacy Cross-bores

AGL's project with SEC for gas main replacements with Southeast Connections was also discussed. Even though this project was for gas main replacement, legacy cross-bore(s) were found.

City of Savannah cross-bore incidents were also discussed. Typically plumbers will notify us if they find a cross-bore and we contact 911 and the Fire Department who go to the site, along with AGL.

Committee Comment – this needs to be covered through an education campaign for the plumbers, contractors, [engineers?] and others involved.

Topic 6: Project Planning to Avoid Cross-bores

Committee Comment - the committee discussed planning such as being done by AGL in the City of Savannah where they have implemented their project some years ago to replace some of their existing facilities.

Committee Comment - also discussed was the City of Savannah's review of a preliminary boring route and plan for one of the recent large telecommunication directional drilling projects and suggested a different route to minimize the possibility of cross-bores by suggesting a route where sewer laterals and sewer mains were not located.

NOTE (*not discussed in meeting*): The City of Savannah normally requires that large utility installation plans be presented to and go through the City Development Services Division's Site Plan Review (SPR) process. During this process the plans go through review by all of the effected City of Savannah Departments and Divisions for their approval.

Project planning is addressed in the HDD Good Practices Guidelines. GUFPA only addresses the 2001 edition however. There is presently the 2017 4th edition (see link below).

“This Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Good Practices Guidelines, Fourth Edition is presented by the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT), a non-profit educational organization. The objective of this publication is to provide contractors, engineers, and utility owners with information that will assist with the completion of successful HDD installations. All NASTT publications are peer reviewed by volunteer industry professionals to ensure that they offer generic and non-commercial information. This Fourth Edition work was funded by NASTT as part of our educational outreach program. Since 1990, the all-volunteer members of NASTT have presented non-commercial information about green alternative engineering methods to

North American communities. NASTT offers multiple, high quality courses each year throughout North America, covering various trenchless topics. For more information on our many educational opportunities, please visit nastt.org.”

<https://member.nastt.org/products/product/HDD4thEdition>

Topic 7: Next Meeting

The next meeting was planned for the Spring GUCC. In mid-January 2020 there will be a conference call.