

# FRESH DIRT Changes in 2018

As part of our continuing series on 2018 revisions to DIRT, we discuss a new question in Part C relating to cross bores.

to other questions like date and type of event, type of work, root cause, etc.

could be considered a “near-miss” event. Making cross bore its own root cause also takes away the ability to correlate with other root causes like lack of 811 notification or failure to pothole.

The Committee decided the best solution was to add a simple YES/NO question in Part C: “Did the event involve a cross bore?” This leaves the ability to correlate with other DIRT questions such as root cause and underground damage vs. near miss, etc. DIRT Users Guide material has been written for the various scenarios by which a cross bore condition is created and/or discovered and can be found at [cga-dirt.com](http://cga-dirt.com).

With this new question, in the future we hope to be able to answer “yes” when asked if useful data regarding cross bores can be found in DIRT data.

**Part C – Affected Facility Information**

**\*What type of facility operation was affected?**

Natural Gas    Sewer    Steam    Cable Television    Electric    Liquid Pipeline  
 Telecommunications    Water    Unknown/Other

**\*What type of facility was affected?**

Distribution    Gathering    Service/Drop    Transmission    Unknown/Other

Was the facility part of a joint trench?    Yes    No

**Did this event involve a Cross Bore?**    Yes    No

Was facility owner One Call Center member?    Yes    No    Unknown

If No, is facility owner exempt from One Call Center membership?    Yes    No    Unknown

Measured Depth    Embedded in concrete/asphalt pavement    <18" / 46 cm    Measured depth from grade \_\_\_\_\_ in/cm

From Grade    18" – 36" / 46 - 91 cm    >36" / 91 cm

The first question is: What is the “date of event”? Is it when the condition is first created by one utility intersecting another? This may not be known at the time it occurs and may not

A cross bore occurs when one underground facility is bored through another. Although not limited to gas lines intersecting sewer lines, these are of most concern in the damage prevention industry. This situation can lead to the sewer backing up, with the gas line damaged during sewer cleaning. The sewer lateral then provides a direct path for gas migration into the building.

Industry stakeholders have asked if any useful information on cross bores can be gleaned from DIRT, but currently they are not mentioned as a question or an answer. The Data Committee decided to address this in conjunction with the DIRT makeover. The issue then became where to fit it into the DIRT form and how to relate it

be discovered until much later, for example, when sewer cleaning leads to a severe incident. Indeed, much industry focus is on finding latent cross bores before such an incident occurs. CGA's recently released Technology Report includes a case study on this topic.

The Committee first considered making a cross bore a “Type of Event” in Part B, then perhaps a Root Cause in Part I. Discussions led to the realization that it doesn't fit well in either place. As a Type of Event, the initial creation of the cross bore is an “Underground Damage” like other instances of buried facility damage. If a latent cross bore condition is discovered, through use of technology for example, it

