

Hudson Strengthens Directional Drilling **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**



Following the explosion that occurred in a neighboring community this past June, the City of Hudson established new Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and trenchless utility installation standards to enhance public safety and protect underground infrastructure. Horizontal directional drilling allows crews to install pipes, conduits and cables underground without digging a long trench. They create small entry and exit pits, then drill a path between them to pull the new line through, so roads, driveways and lawns remain mostly undisturbed compared to conventional excavation. The standards apply to newly permitted trenchless utility work, including City and privately contracted projects within the city right of way and utility easements, and **go beyond minimum requirements under the Ohio Revised Code.**

One of the most significant changes is greater separation between new and existing utilities. While state regulations require a minimum 12-inch horizontal clearance, Hudson will require a minimum 36-inch horizontal clearance and 18-inch vertical clearance. Contractors must also provide detailed construction drawings identifying existing utilities, property and right-of-way boundaries, roadways and other infrastructure.

The City is also strengthening how underground utilities are located and verified. Contractors must continue to contact OHIO811 before excavation and must work with utility owners to resolve any missing or potentially inaccurate markings before proceeding. All gas and electric utility crossings must be physically exposed using non-destructive vacuum excavation and visually verified before excavation can begin. Utilities running parallel to the proposed installation must also be exposed every 50 feet along the drill path and 25 feet on curves, compared with every 100 feet under state regulations. Additional protections will be required while drilling is underway.

Together, these enhanced standards add multiple layers of protection throughout the drilling process, reducing the risk of utility strikes while allowing important infrastructure work to continue safely in Hudson. Following Council approval on September 1st, construction is expected to resume later in September under the new requirements. **These additional safeguards reflect the City's commitment to ensuring public safety remains the top priority throughout all utility work.**

Safety Above All: Hudson Strengthens Protections for Underground Utility Work

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