2019 – Nov 13 – Editorial Section
Approved additions and revisions to GMA-192-11 and GMA-192-11A. Ready for 2nd LB.

PRIMARY: GMA-192-11, GMA 192-11A

PURPOSE: Review the usage of the term “barhole” in the GMAs, as it is used for two different activities, investigating a leak and in pinpointing/repair of a leak. Develop definitions for barhole or barholing that can be used to identify which activity is being conducted. Barholing for investigation is usually done with a plunger bar as part of the gas migration search function. Barholing for pinpointing/repair generally refers to the process of drilling holes in the street to identify the leak location prior to repair. Insert definitions or reference in the leak investigation and pinpointing GM as appropriate.

ORIGIN/RATIONALE: November 8, 2016 Operating & Maintenance/Operator Qualification TG minutes
The way this term is used in describing two different activities is confusing. Barholing during leak investigation usually does not require a call to 811 for locates. When barholing for leak pinpointing/repair the barholes are often deeper, perhaps made use rock drills, and are often in streets, and placed in very close proximity to gas pipelines. This process requires an 811 call. Our GM needs to distinguish between these two activities, when an 811 call is required, and provide a caution on the depth of the barhole for each activity.

LB Processing Note: The proposed changes from LB1-2019 are shown in yellow highlight.

GMA G-192-11

3 DEFINITIONS (Applicable to Guide Material Appendix G-192-11 Only)
Barhole is a hole that is made in the soil or paving for the specific purpose of testing the subsurface atmosphere with a CGI.

Barholing - see definitions in 4 and 7 below.

4 LEAKAGE DETECTION
Barholing, as it applies to leakage detection and leak investigation (see 5.3 and 5.4 below), means the placement of sample points or test holes, generally using a manual barhole device (e.g., probing rod, screwdriver), to determine the presence of gas or the extent of gas migration. This manual process is usually performed at the time of detection by the person performing the leak detection survey or investigation.

Note: See use of barhole in 5.3(a), (b), and (i)(7) and 5.4(k) below.

4.1 Qualification of Personnel.
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7 PINPOINTING
7.1 Scope
Pinpointing is the process of tracing a detected gas leak to its source. It should follow an orderly systematic process that uses one or more of the following procedures to minimize excavation. The objective is to prevent unnecessary excavation which is more time consuming and costly than time spent pinpointing a leak.
Barholing, as it applies to pinpointing a detected leak, means the placement of sample points or test holes directly adjacent to the operator’s piping, generally using a Powered barholing equipment (e.g., rotary hammer, drill) used in conjunction with a driving bar or barhole device may be necessary to complete the test hole to the appropriate depth, in areas where piping is under pavement. This practice is usually necessary to place test holes directly adjacent to the operator’s piping under hard surfaces. Often in the process of pinpointing a leak for repair, it is necessary to barhole to the depth of the piping for additional venting of accumulated gas in the soil to the atmosphere.

GMA G-192-11A

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Note: See use of barhole in 5.3(a), (b), and (i)(7) and 5.4(k).

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