# Utility Safety in Disasters

This playbook describes the best practices for managing utilities such as gas, water, and electricity during a natural disaster to prevent accidents and ensure safety.

### Step 1: Assess Risk

Evaluate the imminent risks posed by the natural disaster to gas, water, and electrical services. Consider the type of disaster and its potential impact on utility infrastructures.

### Step 2: Secure Gas

Turn off the gas supply to reduce the risk of leaks and explosions. Locate the main gas valve and use a wrench to turn it to the off position.

### Step 3: Manage Water

Shut off the main water valve to prevent contamination or flooding. This will also preserve clean water within your pipes for post-disaster use.

### Step 4: Cut Electricity

Disconnect electrical power if flooding or equipment damage is likely. Flip the main circuit breaker to the off position to ensure safety.

### Step 5: Evacuate

If advised by emergency services or if the situation becomes unsafe, evacuate the area immediately following prescribed routes and guidelines.

### Step 6: Reconnect Cautiously

After the disaster has passed and authorities have provided clearance, carefully restore utility services. Inspect for damage before turning water, gas, and electricity back on.

## General Notes

### Emergency Kit

Maintain an emergency utility shutoff kit that includes a gas valve wrench, water valve tool, flashlight, and instructions.

### Utility Maps

Familiarize yourself with the locations of shut-off valves for gas, water, and electrical services in your area before a disaster occurs.