

# 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.