

Resources



Flood



Fire



Lightning



Terrorism



Heatwave



Snowstorm



Hurricane



Bombing

Tab 12

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Helpful Resources

Visit these additional websites to learn more about emergency preparedness:

American Red Cross Disaster Services for People with Disabilities

202-303-5000

[redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html)

American Red Cross: General Disaster Campaign

[redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies.html](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies.html)

Department of Homeland Security

202-282-8000

[dhs.gov](https://www.dhs.gov)

FEMA: Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

1-800-621-3362

<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230425/disaster-preparedness-people-disabilities>

Ready.gov

[ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

If you do not have a computer, look for these resources in your local library. You can call the local offices of the organizations if there is a number for them in your phone book, or you can call the national office at:

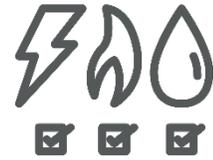
American Red Cross: 202-203-5000

Department of Homeland Security: 202-282-8000

Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-480-2520

How and When to Turn Off Utilities

If there is damage to your home or local authorities tell you to turn off your utilities, there are important things to keep in mind:



- ✓ Know where the electric, gas and water shutoff valves are located.
- ✓ Keep the tools you will need near the shut off valves for easy access.
- ✓ Teach your family members how to turn off the utilities.
- ✓ If you turn the gas off, a professional must turn it back on. Do not try to do it yourself!

Even if you live in an apartment, it is possible that the manager or landlord does not live on the property or is not able to turn off utilities. You may need to do it, or you may need to be able to tell someone else how to do it. It is a good idea to hold an emergency planning meeting with your manager and all the residents in your building or complex.

Source: Ready.Gov. Deciding to Stay or Go. Information adapted from [ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan) Accessed January 9, 2009.

Source: Information adapted from the City of San Francisco Department of Emergency Management <https://www.sf72.org/>

Things to Know about Your Utilities in an Emergency

Gas



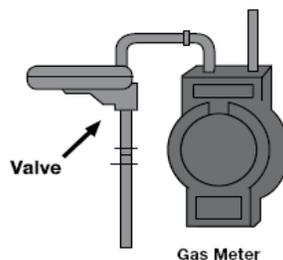
If you smell or hear gas, see a broken pipeline or think you have a leak:

- Shut off the main valve.
- Open all the windows and doors.
- Do not turn on electrical switches or appliances.
- **Do not light a match or candle. It could cause an explosion.**

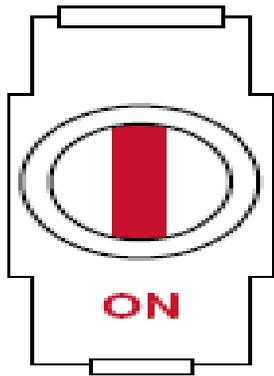
Here's how to turn off your gas:

1. First, find the main valve. It's usually on the outside of large buildings and inside a closet in many homes. If the shut-off valve is inside a landlord's apartment, find out what to do if they are not home or cannot get home.

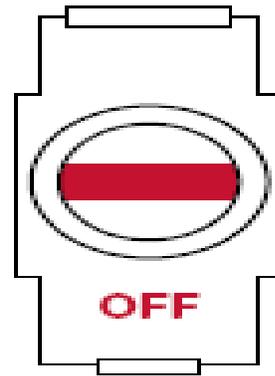
Your main valve may look like this:



2. After you find the valve, turn it slightly. You'll know the gas is off when the lever is in a straight line from left to right on the pipe.



The gas is **on** if the lever is straight from top to bottom.



The gas is **off** when the lever is straight from left to right.

- Keep a wrench or another tool you can use to help you turn the lever.
- Remember: You do NOT turn the gas back on yourself.** Call your gas company to ask them to do it.

The name of my gas company is: _____

My gas company's phone number is: _____

Water



Water leaks can cause damage to your home and electrocution. Here are some general rules for handling water leaks:

- Shut off your water after an earthquake or explosion.

Here's how to turn off your water:

1. The water shut off valve is usually in the basement, garage or where the water line comes into your house by the curb. You will see a pipe coming out of the ground with a valve on it that looks like a wheel.
2. Turn the wheel clockwise (toward the right) to shut off the water.

The name of my water company is: _____

My water company's phone number is: _____

Electricity



You can be electrocuted and killed if you touch live electrical wires or anything that has been touched by live electrical wires. Shut off the electricity when:

- The insides of electrical devices burn when you plug them in.
- There is a fire or water leak.
- You smell the insulation in your house burning.
- The area around switches and plugs is hot when you touch it.
- The area around switches and plugs is black.
- The power goes out and you smell something burning.

The name of my electric company is: _____

My electric company's phone number is: _____

Sewer Service



Damage to sewer lines can affect the way you deal with human waste. When sewer lines aren't working, you will not be able to flush the toilet. If you think your sewer line is damaged, don't flush the toilet! Turn off the water at the main valve and call your sewer company.

Here are some things you can do to keep clean if the sewer line is damaged:

- If there is no water in the toilet bowl but your sewer lines still work, pour 3 to 5 gallons of water into the toilet bowl so you can flush it.
- If there is no water in the toilet bowl and the sewer lines are broken, line your toilet bowl with double garbage bags to collect waste. After you use the toilet, add a small amount of bleach to the bowl. Then, seal the garbage bag and put it into a container with a lid that fits tightly. Keep the container away from people.
- If your toilet can't be used at all, line a bucket that has a tight-fitting lid and line it with garbage bags. Remember to add a small amount of bleach and keep the bucket away from people and animals.

The name of my sewer company is: _____

My sewer company's phone number is: _____

How to Make a Home Inventory

If your home was damaged by fire or a burglar took your valuables, would you remember the details of your possessions? If asked, could you remember your TV's screen size and brand name? How about your camera or video game system? Do you remember when and where you bought these items and how much they cost?



If your belongings are stolen or destroyed, your insurance company will ask you to provide a record of them. Without an inventory, you will forget important information. Add the trauma and stress a major loss can cause, and likely, you will forget items. Save yourself time, money and frustration by planning ahead and completing a personal property inventory.

How an inventory can help you

If a disaster strikes, a personal property inventory will help you:

- Provide your insurance company with a complete list of your household goods and personal belongings so you're sure to receive compensation for everything your policy covers.
- File a complete claim that can be settled quickly and accurately.
- Confirm that you have enough coverage for your belongings.
- Know which items were stolen and identify recovered property after a burglary.
- Provide a record of serial and model numbers for easy identification of your items.

- Provide a receipt from the original place of purchase.
- Verify any parts of your loss that you may write off on your federal income taxes.

A complete inventory has:

- A listing of all your items with important details
- Receipts for your most valuable objects
- A video or photos of your home and contents
- Current appraisals



It's easy to get started

Prepare your inventory by hand or on a computer. Several software packages are available just for this purpose, or design your own form with a spreadsheet program. Keep in mind, a computerized inventory is easy to update and store.

If you design your own form, include columns for the name and description of each item, the quantity, model and serial number, purchase date, where you bought it, original cost and what you think is the current value. You may want to add a column to mark if you have a receipt or photo of the item.

Cover one room at a time

One way to complete your inventory is to tackle a different room of your home each week until you have everything listed. Record your high-valued items, such as jewelry, silverware, special collections, antiques, paintings and artwork.

Then list furniture, carpeting and electronics such as TVs, stereo equipment and computers. Remember clothing, draperies, wall hangings, rugs, CDs, DVDs, pots and pans, linens, tools, lamps and appliances that were not included in the purchase of your home.

Open drawers, cupboards and closets. Record what's inside. Open toolboxes, cabinets and storage bins and include their contents.

Use a camera or recording device

Add photos or a video of your belongings to your inventory. This will give you further proof of ownership and add detail to your written descriptions. They also help document each item's condition and size. Take wide-angle photos of entire rooms, which will help show the size of a loss. When making a video, you can record audio descriptions and make comments. Take close-up shots of expensive items and group shots of lower-value items. Zoom in on labels and special features, like signatures on artwork or serial numbers on appliances and electronics. Be sure to date each photo or use the date imprint function on your video camera.

When you make a list of outdoor items, include bicycles, sporting goods, yard equipment and other things kept outside. While you're outside, take a photo of each side of the outside of your home. Include your carport and other structures, like a storage shed. Include rare trees or shrubs and unusual landscaping. These things aren't considered personal property, but it will be helpful to have a record of them in case of a loss.

After you've finished your inventory

Once you've completed your list, copy everything, including appraisals, receipts, videos, disks and computer printouts, and have an extra set of photos printed. Store one inventory packet away from your home. A safe deposit box is the most secure location, or ask a friend or relative to keep a copy.

Be sure to update your inventory packet every 4 to 6 months. In the meantime, save receipts for any new items you'll need to add. If you make

a major purchase, update your inventory as soon as possible. And remember to delete items you no longer have.

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Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit for People with Disabilities



Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH)
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

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