



In an emergency, if you smell or hear natural gas escaping, you can shut off gas service to your home by turning the meter shut-off valve so it's crosswise to the pipe.

SAFETY TIPS for emergency gas shut-off

If a major earthquake or other disaster damages gas pipelines, you may need to shut off the gas service to your home. The following tips can help you do so safely:

To prepare for an emergency: Know exactly where your gas meter is located. It could be underground, in a cabinet, or beside or under your house. Also, keep a 10- or 12-inch adjustable wrench with your emergency preparedness supplies (see adjacent article) or next to the meter's shut-off valve — someplace you can always find it.

After an emergency: Don't turn off your gas meter unless you smell natural gas or hear the hissing sound of gas escaping. If so, use your adjustable wrench to turn the shut-off valve one-quarter of a turn in either direction, until the valve is crosswise to the pipe (see diagram).

To restore service: If you shut off the gas for any reason, but do not know how to safely restore your gas service and inspect your gas appliances for damage, call your local gas company or a licensed plumbing or heating contractor.

For more information: Emergency gas shut-off instructions appear in the "Survival Guide" section of most telephone directory white pages and at your local gas companies web site.