

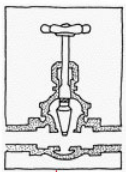
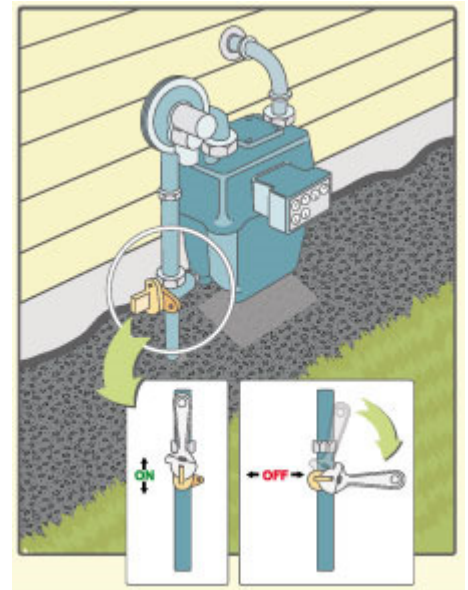
Six Steps to Follow Immediately Following a Disaster at Home

Step 1: Take care of your loved ones. All of your family members should be trained. Consider who will be and who will not be home during different times of the day or night.

Step 2: Dress for safety. A bicycle helmet or hard hat protects from falling debris. Sturdy shoes protect from broken glass. Leather gloves protect from sharp objects. Keep these accessible under your bed. Broken glass is the major cause of injury from earthquakes.

Step 3: Check the natural gas at your home. LEARN how to identify gas leaks. Shut off if necessary. This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.

1. Turn off all gas appliances, stove, oven, clothes dryer, water and house heater. Locate the gas meter. If dials are turning, gas must be leaking. If dials are stopped, there is no apparent leak at that moment. Consider potential seismic after shocks before leaving it on if no one at home can respond later.
2. Locate the meter shut-off valve. It's usually the first fitting on the natural gas supply pipe coming out of the ground next to the meter.
3. Use a long-handled wrench to give the valve one-quarter turn in either direction so the lever is crosswise to the pipe.
4. **Once the natural gas is off, leave it off.** Contact PG&E to inspect the system, and to check and relight. PG&E may be unable to respond for several days.



Step 4: Shut off water at the house main to trap water in your home. This will keep pollutants out of possible drinking water, like that in your water heater.

The shut off valve is normally located near where the cold water pipe enters and is usually located on a pipe right near the front door or right before the water heater. In some cases, this valve has a red handle. To turn it off, rotate the handle clockwise.

Step 5: Place the **Help or OK sign** on your front door or window with band aids. Posting the sign helps your neighbors locate those who need help first.

Step 6: Check for electrical wire damage. If the house is badly damaged, wiring may be broken or detached and may cause sparks and fire. Having your **electrical PG&E box switches and your in-house control panel properly labeled** is therefore very important. Unlike gas, there are usually too many electrical items to disconnect to monitor the meter to detect broken wires, connectors or instruments. Serious damage may cause the breaker switch to turn off the power to that wire. Look for lights and other users that do not function properly and turn off that switch.