

Water, electricity, and natural gas – we sometimes take these utilities for granted because we use them every day. But do you know how to shut them off in an emergency? In a flood, you may need to manually shut off your utilities without delay. Don't wait for an emergency to learn how!

Reasons to Shut off Utilities

There are several reasons that might lead you to shut off your water, electricity, or natural gas utilities in an emergency such as a flood. Here are a few examples:

- If you have been asked to evacuate your area.
- If there are downed power lines or power outages.
- If there are broken or cracked water lines.
- If gas pipes have been compromised.
- If there is an active fire or a risk of fire.

When in doubt, call your utility to ask for guidance.

Be Alert

Does your home use natural gas? If you smell rotten eggs or hear a blowing or hissing noise coming from the gas line or your appliance, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

SOURCE: ready.gov/



“Locate your electricity panel, and your water and gas valves before you have to!”

– Flood Ready Freddy



TIP #9: “Know how to turn off your utilities!”

zone7water.com/floodready

Water

First, find the shut-off valve for the main water line that enters your house and tag it for easy identification. Make sure you can shut the valve off completely. Your valve may be rusted open or it may not close all the way. If so, replace it. Test your water valve to make sure it is easy to shut off during an emergency.

Natural Gas

Natural gas leaks and explosions cause a significant number of fires after disasters. Don't wait for an emergency to learn how to shut off the gas. There are different procedures for different gas meter configurations, so it's important to call your gas company ahead of time to learn what to do. They can help you prepare for handling gas service and appliances in your home in the event of an emergency. **Caution:** If you turn off the gas for any reason, only a qualified professional can turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

Electricity

Can you locate your home's electrical circuit box? For your safety, always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit. Consult with an electrician or your local electric utility for guidance.

