

# Disaster Planning

A Guide for Propane Consumers



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## **Disaster Planning**

### **A Guide for Propane Consumers**

*Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornados or heavy snows can strike quickly and without warning. In some parts of the country, they are a serious occurrence. After considering the natural disasters common to your area, it's a good idea to prepare a simple plan of action to assure your safety and the safety of others.*

#### **Know what could happen and how to prepare**

Be aware of common or possible natural disasters in your area. Consider how often they could happen and how they could affect you and your propane system.

Know your community's warning signals (such as sirens) and how to tune into the local radio or television Emergency Warning Network.

Review suggested preparations for a natural disaster with your propane supplier as well as other utility suppliers. Ask them about their previous disaster experience and advise them of any special needs you have in advance.

Consult your local police, fire department, civil defense or other authorities for their suggested actions to take following a natural disaster.

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## Some possible disaster damage to a propane system:

- Container tip-over, causing leakage.
- Damaged piping or tubing, causing leakage in or out of building.
- Electric lines falling onto propane tank, piping or equipment.
- Flooding, causing water in burners or controls or containers to be detached from their foundations.
- Heavy snow, causing damage to regulators, meters, vents and gas piping.

## Suggested Plan of Action Before, During or After the Natural Disaster Occurs

### *Before*

Familiarize household members and/or building occupants with the odor of propane and actions to take if it is detected.

Know how and where to shut off your propane supply and other utilities.

Post all emergency phone numbers in a convenient spot. Review these numbers periodically with anyone that might need to use them.

Identify safe places to gather both inside the building and outside, should evacuation be necessary. Agree on a phone contact if separation occurs.

Maintain an approved fire extinguisher and train those who would use it in its operation.

Test your warning equipment (smoke or gas alarm) per manufacturer's instruction.

Review and practice your action plan periodically.

### *During*

Remain calm.

Assess the scene and tune into your Emergency Warning Network to determine if evacuation is necessary.

Have flashlights, battery-powered lamps and extra batteries handy in case of a power outage.

Gather emergency supplies, such as first aid equipment and food. Fill the bathtub to ensure a supply of safe water.

Turn off your propane supply at the tank, turning the valve in a clockwise direction.

In a flood hazard area, store propane tanks or secure them to the structure. Note: do **not** store containers indoors or in a garage.

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## **After**

Use caution when re-entering the residence or building.

Do not take lanterns, torches or any kind of flame into a damaged building, since there may be leaking gas.

If you smell leaking gas, do not attempt to turn on lights or use the telephone—they can produce sparks that will ignite the gas. Contact your fuel supplier from a neighbor's house.

Call for a safety check from your gas, water and electric suppliers prior to operating any of your appliances and/or equipment.

Remember, disasters are often unexpected. However, if you know in advance the steps that can be taken before, during and after, you can protect your family's safety and reduce the fear, inconvenience and losses that often occur.

*Following a few simple steps can protect your family and your propane system from harm in the event of a natural disaster.*

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## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

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