

Disaster Preparedness and Natural Gas

Disaster can occur anytime and anywhere. Disasters such as floods, tornadoes, wind storms and winter storms can all cause severe damage to gas utilities and create extreme hazards for people and property. You can protect your family and property by being aware of the hazards and preparing for them. The below suggestions may help to limit your exposure to further hazards.

- Prepare and practice a disaster plan for your family.
- Know how to turn off the main gas service at the meter if instructed to do so.
- Never turn a gas service back on yourself – have it done by OPU. The service worker will ensure that all pilot lights are lit and that there is no obvious damage to your equipment that is causing a leak.
- Replace any appliance that has been submerged in water.
- After a disaster check for the odor of gas (rotten eggs) before entering any area. If gas is detected, leave immediately and call OPU from another location.
- Store flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and away from appliances.

Consult with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (www.fema.gov) and other local Emergency Officials (www.co.steele.mn.us/EmMgmt/EMdesc.html) for additional safety precautions and directions.