

Appendix E - Water & Electricity Shut Off

Water

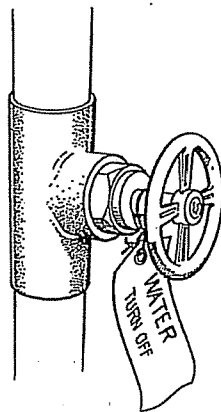
Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.

- Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house.
- The effects of gravity may drain the water in your hot water and toilet tanks unless you trap the water in your house by shutting off the main house valve (not the street valve in the cement box at the curb – this valve is extremely difficult to turn and requires a special tool).

Preparing to shut off water

- Locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house. Possible locations include the garage, the basement, or near the water heater.

It may look like this:



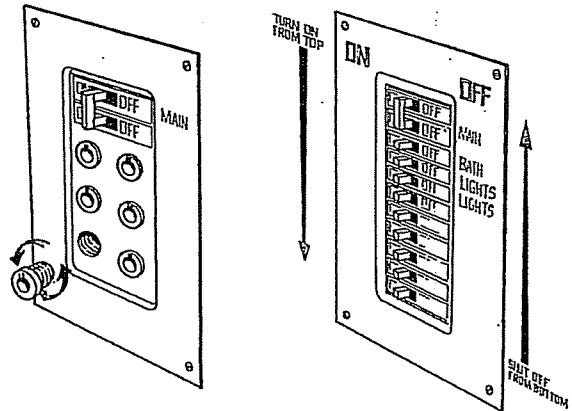
- Make sure this valve can be completely shut off. Your valve may be rusted open, or it may only partially close. Replace it if necessary.
- Label this valve with a tag for easy identification, and make sure all household members know where it is located.

Electricity

Electrical sparks have the potential of igniting natural gas if it is leaking. It is wise to teach all responsible household members where and how to shut off the electricity.

Preparing to shut off electricity

- Locate your electricity circuit box.
- Teach all responsible household members how to shut off the electricity to the entire house.



FOR YOUR SAFETY & TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL SHOCK: Always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.

When turning the electricity back on, first turn on the main breaker. Then, turn on all the individual breakers.

Outside

Stay far away from downed power lines. You cannot tell by looking at them whether they are 'live' or not. NEVER try to move them. NEVER try to hop over them. NEVER walk under a power line that is resting on a tree branch or fallen tree.

It may be a while before official crew members can come and secure downed wires. If so, experts from the power company recommend creating a barrier around the downed lines by roping them off at least 50 feet in all directions. This will help prevent neighbors from accidentally coming in contact with them.