



Utilities: Shut Off Procedures

Water Service to the House:

The water service shut-off to your house is normally located on the walkway leading up to your front door. There are 2 valve handles. The upper one shuts off the service to the house. The lower one turns off the irrigation system. If the valve handle is parallel (in line) with the water pipe, then the water is on. If the valve handle is perpendicular to the water pipe, then the water is off. To turn water service to your house OFF, turn the top handle 90 degrees. It is recommended that after a major earthquake, the water to your home be turned off until it is determined the city water system has not been contaminated.

Water Heater:

Hot water heaters are normally located in the garage. They hold 40 to 60 gallons of fresh water. To access this water, turn OFF the gas supply to the water heater, and turn OFF the input water supply to the water heater (or to the house). Once the gas and water are shut-off, open the pressure relief valve on the top of the tank. Now you can open the drain valve at the bottom of the tank to access the water. There may be some sediment in the first few gallons of water from the tank. A dishtowel or clean t-shirt can be used to filter this water for use.

Electric Panel:

Locate the circuit breaker box on the outside of your house. Inside the box, you will find several smaller circuit breakers marked 15, 20, 30 or 40 amp. The one you are looking for is the main circuit breaker, labeled as SERVICE DISCONNECT, 200 amps. Turn that OFF- to shut off all power to your house. DO NOT restore the power yourself. Seek the assistance of a licensed, professional electrician to diagnose the problem.

Garage Door:

During a power outage, your garage door can be operated manually. Pull down on the *red cord*. This will disengage the automatic mechanism. You will hear a click. Once the door is disengaged, you can lift the door up from the bottom. To restore the doors automatic system, pull the red cord back towards the door motor, again you will hear a click. Golf cart doors operate in the same manner.

Gas Meters:

If you smell natural gas leaking, you may want to shut-off your gas at the gas meter located outside your home. This is a small valve on the pipe leading out of your gas meter. When this valve is inline with this pipe, the gas is on. To turn OFF this valve, turn it 90 degrees or perpendicular to the pipe. NEVER turn your gas back on yourself, have the gas company restore your service.