

Protecting natural gas equipment from a flood

Tips for those who live in areas subject to flooding.



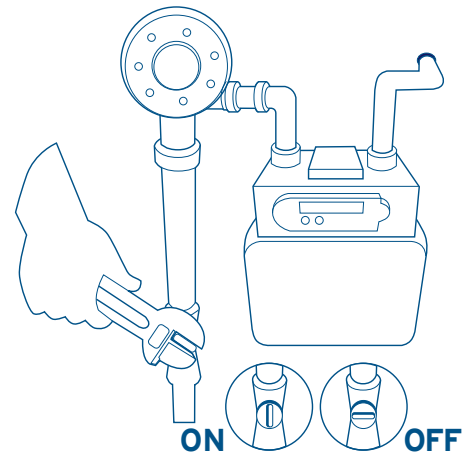
Did you know?

Service and repair work on natural gas equipment should only be performed by a registered gas contractor.

What to do before a flood

If you have enough advance warning prior to a flood, here's how you can protect your appliances:

- Have a registered gas contractor remove the electric motor, burner and controls from the furnace, and shut off the gas and electric supply.
- Have a registered gas contractor remove hot water tanks, clothes dryers and ranges from your building.
- If you have natural gas clothes dryers, ranges and other appliances removed, ensure the gas supply valve is shut off to the appliance first.
- Cap and properly seal the gas pipe leading to the appliance shutoff valve. This is to prevent the back flow of flood water into the gas piping system



If you are evacuating your premises

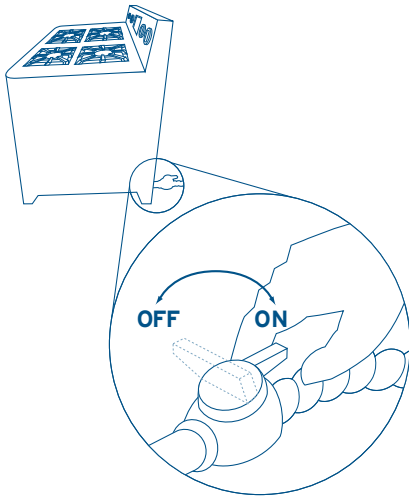
Shut off your gas valve at the meter. You can turn your gas off at the main shutoff valve on the inlet pipe next to your gas meter. Using a wrench or other suitable tool, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction so that it is crosswise to the pipe.

CAUTION: If you smell gas, or if there is evidence of a gas leak, don't enter the building.

Call the FortisBC 24-hour emergency line at **1-800-663-9911**, your local fire department or **911**.

If you don't have enough time or a licensed contractor is not available:

- Turn off the electrical power to each appliance and leave it off.
- Shut off the gas supply valve to the appliance (usually found on the gas line to the appliance).
- Do not drain your hot water tank—just shut off the water leading to and from the tank.



Always call a registered gas contractor

Don't try to put natural gas appliances back in service yourself. Gas appliances that have been flooded should not be used until inspected by a registered gas contractor to ensure your safety. A registered gas contractor will check, clean, repair and pressure-test all gas pipes that have been clogged with mud or debris. Switches, controls, thermostats, furnace heat exchangers, burner and pilot parts and rusting metal parts can also be damaged.

Please note, the cost of restoring some appliances to a safe operating condition can exceed the cost of a new appliance.

For more information

- For more information on flood safety, contact the Provincial Emergency Program in your region, or visit pep.bc.ca
- For more information about natural gas safety, visit: fortisbc.com or call **1-888-224-2710**.
- The BC Safety Authority also has useful information. Visit safetyauthority.ca

What to do after a flood

If water levels were high enough to cover the gas meter, call FortisBC to check your meter and regulator before using your gas system. Flood waters may have shifted your home or caused other stresses to the gas piping.

All electrical wiring in buildings that have been partially or fully covered by flood water must be checked by a qualified electrician or electrical inspector before being put into service again. Wet electrical wiring is extremely dangerous, so make sure the main electrical supply is shut off. Any loose wires should be considered "live" and a definite hazard.

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