

# Hurricane Preparedness Tips – Gas/Generators

## **GAS - People Gas System, Inc.**

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## **Advisory for Peoples Gas Customers in Hurricane Emergencies**

The following is a list of important hurricane safety instructions for Peoples Gas natural and propane gas customers.

### **Preparations Before The Hurricane**

1. Check all gas appliances to ensure they are in good working condition.
2. Have the name and telephone number of your gas company available. Check your gas bill for this information
3. Check twenty pounds (20 lbs.) portable gas cylinders for cooking on outdoor gas grills. If not full, take the cylinder to a propane fill station and have it filled.
4. Check your yard for loose materials that could be blown around by strong hurricane winds. This material could damage the natural gas meter set or propane tank.
5. If you are not required to evacuate your home or business, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TURN OFF GAS SERVICE. In this situation, your natural or propane gas service should operate uninterrupted throughout the storm.
6. If you are a Peoples Gas customer and need assistance with your gas service, give Peoples Gas a call. Emergency crews are on duty twenty-four hours a day. If you are not a Peoples Gas Customer, call your gas company for assistance.
7. If you are a natural gas customer and are required to evacuate your home or business, DO NOT turn off your gas supply at the main meter. That valve should be turned on or off only by emergency or utility personnel DO turn off the gas to individual appliances at the supply valve near each unit. Most city codes now call for a small supply turn-off valve within six feet of each appliance.
8. If you are a propane gas customer and you are required to evacuate your home or business, turn off your gas to individual appliances at the supply valve near each unit. You also may interrupt the gas supply to the entire building by turning clockwise the master wheel valve atop your propane tank.

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE:**

**Never cook indoors with a gas grill or a charcoal grill. These appliances are designed for outdoor use only.**

### **After The Hurricane**

1. After the hurricane, if you have any questions or difficulty relighting the pilot lights on your appliances, you should call your gas company office, a plumber or a qualified appliance service contractor for assistance.
2. If you smell gas or see a broken gas line, call your gas company.
3. If you smell a strong odor of gas inside the home or building, DO NOT light any matches, turn on any light switches, or use the telephone.
4. If you smell a strong odor of gas inside the home or building and are not able to Contact Peoples Gas, or you local gas company due to communication problems, CALL YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE.
5. If your home or business was flooded and your gas appliances were under water, DO NOT attempt to operate the appliances. Instead, contact People Gas, a plumber or a qualified appliance service contractor for a safety inspection.
6. Before removing fallen trees, call for utility line locations. Gas, electric, telephone, water, sewer, and cable lines may be entangled in the root system of the fallen trees. Call 1-800-432-4770. The call and service are free.
7. All Peoples Gas personnel carry proper identification. Ask for identification before allowing anyone to enter your home.
8. In cases of outages due to damaged lines, Peoples Gas' primary responsibility is to make the affected area safe. After the area has been made safe, service to the affected customers will be restored as soon as possible. Peoples Gas must have access to the meter and gas appliances to restore gas service. DO NOT attempt to self-restore your gas service.
9. Refrain from calling the gas company during emergencies unless you smell gas. Also, call the gas company if you do not have gas service after the gas service has been restored in your area.

### **GENERATORS**

- If a caller is using a generator, they must shut down the power supply from FPL before activating the generator.
- Follow all instructions carefully.
- Contact their manufacturer or FPL at 797-5000 for further assistance.

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