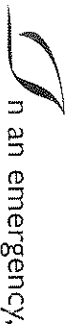


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# Stay Calm. Don't Become a Victim



it's easy to panic. Loud noises, roaring wind and flashes of lightning can seem terrifying and threatening. But the real danger may be more subtle — a gas leak, or electricity from a severed power line. Pacific Gas and Electric Company has developed this brochure to tell you about the most common gas and electric hazards caused by storms and natural disasters, and to show you how to prevent injuries and stay safe. Keep it handy and review it often with your family so you will all know how to respond in an emergency.

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## EVERYDAY PRECAUTIONS

No one can predict natural disasters, but you can reduce the possibility of damage and injury by observing these safety measures.

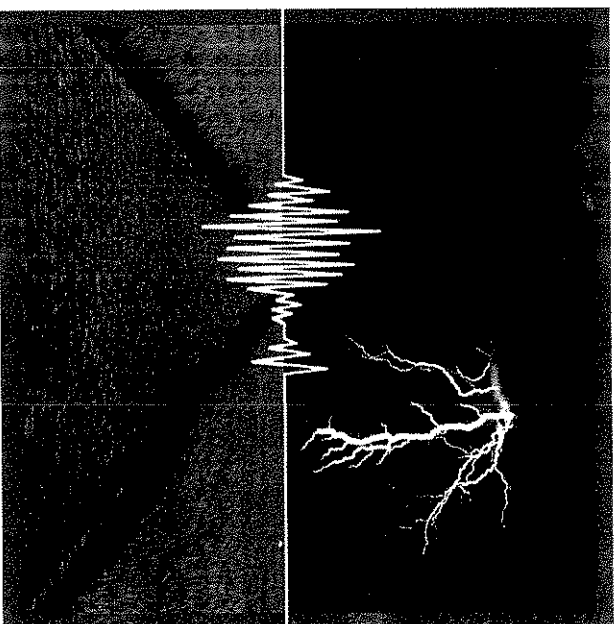
- Do not store or use gasoline, paint or other flammable substances in the same area as any gas appliance such as a water heater or other source of flame.
- Know where the shut-off valves of all your appliances are located, as well as the shut-offs for your household gas and electric services.
- Do not locate pools and spas under electric lines.
- If trees or tree branches are too close to electric lines, call PG&E at **1 800 743-5000**.



For more information about  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company,  
visit us at our Web site:  
<http://www.pge.com>

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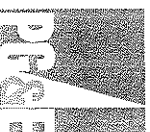
# Storms and Natural Disasters



**PREPARE**  
It's energy well spent



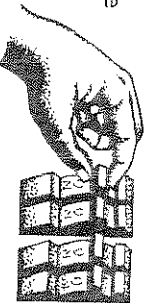
American  
Red Cross



## EARTHQUAKE AND FLOOD HAZARDS

Earthquakes and floods can create both gas and electric hazards. In an emergency, be ready to take the following steps.

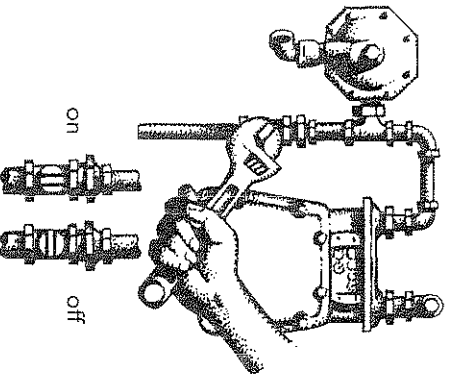
- If your home is flooded, don't touch appliances while the power is still on. Turn off the electricity at the main circuit box, but first be sure you are not wet or standing in water.



- If you smell an odor of gas inside your home, call your local PG&E office immediately. If the smell is strong or if you are in any doubt, do not call from your home. Get everyone out and call from a neighbor's phone.

- To turn off leaking gas, use the main shut-off valve on the inlet pipe next to your gas meter. With a wrench or other suitable tool, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction so that it is crosswise to the pipe. If you have trouble, call PG&E for help.

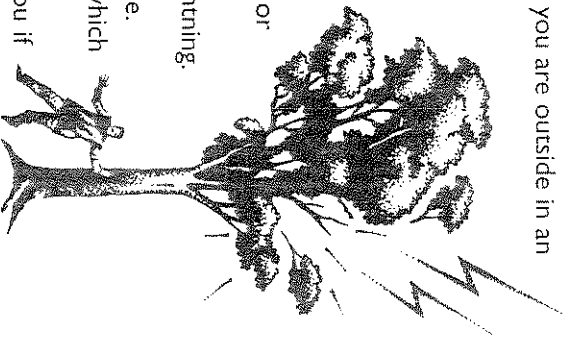
- Once the gas is shut off at the meter, do not try to turn it back on. Only a qualified person should turn the gas back on. Call PG&E to restore service.



## ELECTRICAL STORM PRECAUTIONS

The human body is 70 percent water, which makes it an excellent conductor of electricity. Lightning always seeks out the tallest objects in a given area and if that object is you, you could be shocked, burned or electrocuted. If you are outside in an electrical storm:

- Seek shelter: Get inside the nearest house, building or vehicle. If you can't get inside, stay low — sit or lie down. Being wet or uncomfortable is better than being struck by lightning.



- Don't stand under a tree. Trees attract lightning which can cause them to split, fall, explode or shock you if you are touching one.
- If you are on a golf course, drop all metal clubs, get in a golf cart, and seek a safe shelter.
- If you are swimming, get out of the water. If you are in a boat, get to shore. Stay clear of metal masts and rigging.
- Stay away from fences, electrical towers or other metal objects that can conduct electricity.

## DOWNED OR DAMAGED POWER LINES

Is it an electric line? Telephone? Cable TV? Don't guess. Assume every downed line is a live electric line. And remember that winds can whip these lines around, making them extremely dangerous. Stay a safe distance away. Do not attempt to free anyone or anything in contact with a power line. Call for emergency help.

- If a live line is touching your vehicle, stay in the vehicle and wait for help to arrive. If the vehicle catches fire or if you must get out, jump clear without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Shuffle away — don't walk or run.

- Stay clear of puddles, fences, trees or any other object in contact with a power line. Remember: metal is not the only conductor of electricity.

- Stay away from leaning power poles and towers or sagging power lines. Call PG&E at **1 800 743-5000** immediately.

