GAS SHUTOFF

Gas meter inside the home

If your gas meter is located inside your home, you should only shut off gas flow when instructed to by local authorities. If you smell gas or see the dials on your meter showing gas is flowing even though appliances are turned off, you should evacuate the premises and call 911. Do not attempt to shut off the gas from inside the building if gas may be in the air.

Gas meter outside the home

You should turn off the meter from outside the building if you smell gas or you see dials on the meter showing gas is flowing even though appliances are turned off. If there is a fire that you cannot extinguish, call 911 and turn off the gas only if it is safe to do so.

If you are unsure of the proper procedures, do not attempt to turn the utilities on again yourself, particularly in multiple-unit dwellings. Always follow your local fire department’s guidelines. Remember that, in all cases, natural gas that has been shut off can only be restored by a trained technician.

Again, some gas meters have automatic shutoff valves that restrict the flow of gas during an earthquake or other emergency. These are installed by a licensed plumber, downstream of the utility point of delivery. If you are unsure whether your home has this shutoff device, contact your gas service company. If this shutoff device is closed, only a qualified professional should restore it.

Never enter the basement of a structure that is on fire to turn off any utility.

Be sure to use a flashlight, not a candle, if an additional light source is needed to locate and shut off the gas valve.

-- Excerpt from FEMA CERT Participant Manual, January 2011 version

UNIT 2: FIRE SAFETY AND UTILITY CONTROLS

https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/27403

Note – do not turn on/off anything electrical, including a flashlight or cellphone, inside if you smell gas. Turn flashlight on before going inside.