

If you live in Missouri or Illinois, you stand a good chance of experiencing a moderate to severe earthquake in your lifetime. While no one can predict how much damage an earthquake may cause, the good news is that natural gas pipeline systems have proven remarkably resistant to earthquake-related damage. However, there are still measures specific to natural gas customers that should be taken to ensure the safety of all.

Be Prepared

1. Remove any flammable liquids, such as gasoline, paint and cleaning products. Store away from your water heater and furnace.
2. Secure your hot water heater by strapping it to the wall or ceiling, bolting it to the floor, or using metal straps to attach it to wood studs or steel support posts. You can have this done by Laclede Gas if you wish. Just call 314-621-6960.
3. Connect appliances, including ranges, dryers, and space heaters to the gas supply with flexible connectors (if local codes allow).
4. Label gas valves, water valves and electricity main switches. Teach responsible family members how and when to turn them off. Do not turn off your gas unless an emergency exists.

After An Earthquake Occurs

If you do NOT smell gas:

5. Check the furnace, water heater, and other gas appliances for damage.
6. Before using your furnace or water heater, check chimneys and flues, clearing them of any fallen bricks or other obstructions.
7. If your water heater is undamaged, it is a good source of an emergency supply of water.

If you DO smell gas:

8. Do not operate any electrical appliances including light switches.
9. Do not attempt to locate a gas leak with a match, candle, cigarette lighter, or any open flame.
10. If there is an odor or sound of escaping gas, leave the building immediately, and call Laclede Gas from an outside phone (314-342-0800 or 314-621-6960). If you can't reach Laclede Gas, contact your local fire department by dialing 911.

When Should Your Gas Meter Be Turned Off?

- If you smell natural gas.
- If you hear natural gas leaking.
- If there is structural damage to your home.
- If there is a fire.

CAUTION: Do not shut off the gas if doing so jeopardizes your safety.

The meter shut-off valve is located next to the meter as shown in the illustration below. Use a wrench to turn the valve a quarter turn in either direction to the "off" position as shown in the illustration. If you turn the meter off, do not attempt to turn it back on yourself. Natural gas meters should be turned on only by a properly trained Laclede Gas employee, a plumber, or a heating contractor. Depending on the severity of the earthquake and the number of gas meters that are turned off, you may have to wait some time for your gas service to be restored, even if there is no damage to the gas pipelines in your area.

For more earthquake safety tips, visit:
www.LacledeGas.com

