

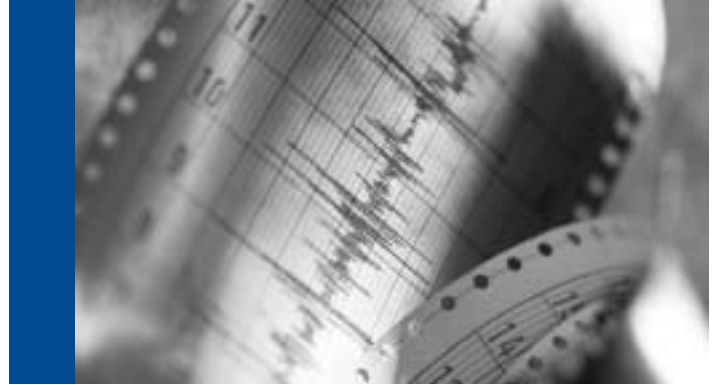
# Electric and Gas Safety During an Earthquake

The need to prepare for earthquakes is especially important for Southern California residents. Being prepared includes having a plan to protect your family during and after an earthquake. There are several electric and natural gas precautions that you can take to be better prepared.

## Prepare for an earthquake

If you need assistance locating your gas or electrical facilities, please contact SDG&E® at 1-800-411-SDGE (7343).

- Know where your electrical circuit box is located and how to shut off circuits.
- Know where your gas meter is and how to shut off the gas in an emergency. You should shut off your gas only if you smell gas. And **never** turn your gas back on without the help of SDG&E or a licensed heating contractor or plumber.
- Store a battery-powered radio, a wind-up or battery-powered clock, a first aid kit, a supply of water and food and a manual can opener in a place where they can be easily reached.
- Know how to shut off your individual appliances. Place an emergency phone list that includes the number to report a gas leak or downed or damaged power line, near the phone. To alert SDG&E about damaged lines, please call 1-800-611-SDGE (7343).
- Earthquakes can cause improperly secured water heaters to move or topple. To prevent this, check the wall straps on your water heater regularly to ensure a secure fit. If your water heater isn't already secured to the wall, strap it firmly to the wall studs in the upper and lower one-third of the tank with heavy bolts and metal tape. Be sure to place straps at least 4 inches above the thermostat controls. Materials can be found at your local hardware store.



## What to do during an earthquake

- If you are in the kitchen and it is safe to do so, turn off cooking appliances at the first sign of shaking.

## What to do after an earthquake

- Check gas and electric lines and appliances for damage. However, do not use electrical switches or candles to check for damage. For your protection, SDG&E adds a distinctive odor to natural gas, so leaks are more easily detected. If you smell a natural gas odor:
  - ♦ Get everyone out of the house immediately.
  - ♦ Call SDG&E at 1-800-611-SDGE (7343) using a neighbor's phone, a cell phone from outside your home or a pay phone.
  - ♦ Call the fire department if you can't reach SDG&E.

## DON'T

- ♦ Panic.
- ♦ Light a match, candle or cigarette.
- ♦ Turn any electrical appliances or lights on or off.
- ♦ Use ANY phone in your house.

- If there is damage to the home's electrical wiring, switch off electrical power at the circuit box.
- Do not touch downed or damaged power lines, even if there appears to be no power.
- Do not turn the electricity or gas back on until SDG&E or a qualified contractor has checked the house for safety.

## For more information

SDG&E is committed to providing safe, reliable energy and exceptional customer service. For more information, please call us at **1-800-411-SDGE (7343)** or visit our Web site at [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com). We are available 24 hours a day, every day.



*Serving you today.  
Planning for tomorrow.™*

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[www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com)