

Natural Gas Safety: What to do During an Earthquake

When the ground starts shaking

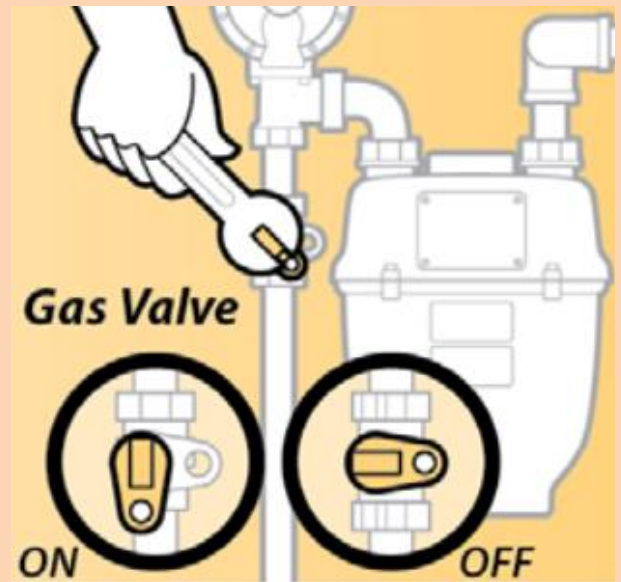
- Follow the first steps of “Drop, Cover, Hold On.”
- Drop to the ground, take cover under a desk, table or sturdy piece of furniture, and hold on until the shaking stops.



After the shaking stops

- Check your natural gas appliances and equipment.
- If you don't smell or hear gas escaping, consider leaving the gas on as a source of energy for heat, hot water and cooking.
- Check the vents, chimney and connections at each gas appliance to ensure they haven't been dislodged or blocked.
- If you think you smell gas or hear gas escaping, act fast. Turn off your meter if safe to do so.
- Leave the building and call 911.

TIP: Keep the area around gas appliances clear of combustible materials, such as paper, paints, solvents, propane canisters and laundry.



Turning off your gas meter

- Using a wrench, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction so it's crosswise to the pipe.
- Once the gas is shut off at the meter, do not try to turn it back on. Only a registered gas contractor can do that safely.
- Call FortisBC or the British Columbia Safety Authority to find a licensed gas fitter to safely restore service.
- For more information specific to natural gas safety, visit www.fortisbc.com/safety

TIP: Keep a wrench near or next to your gas meter. This ensures one is always handy if you need to shut off your gas meter in an emergency.