

# NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS

## Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Informed.

When you return to your home after a flood there are a few important safety tips to be aware of to keep you and your family safe.

- Do not turn off your natural gas service at the meter; doing so could allow water to enter the natural gas lines.
- Be alert for the smell of natural gas - It smells like rotten eggs. If you do smell natural gas, **leave the area immediately** on foot and tell others to leave, too.
- Do NOT turn on your lights, smoke, strike a match, use a cell phone or operate anything that might cause a spark, including a flashlight or a generator.
- Do not attempt to turn natural gas valves on or off. Once you are safely away from the area, call **911** and **888-876-5786**. Once it is safe, CenterPoint Energy will send a trained service technician.
- If your home was flooded, call a licensed plumber or gas appliance technician to inspect your appliances and gas piping to make sure they are in good operating condition before calling CenterPoint Energy to reconnect service. This includes outdoor gas appliances including pool heaters, gas grills and gas lights.
- **Call 811 before any digging is started** – it's the law. Striking buried utility lines can cause serious injury or death. Alert participating utility companies, such as electric, gas, cable and phone about planned digging so they can mark the appropriate location of their underground lines. Please be prepared for a longer than usual wait time during the next few weeks, and do not dig until the lines have been marked.
- Be aware of where your natural gas meter is located. As debris is put out for heavy trash pickup, make sure it is placed away from the meter. In many areas the meter may be located near the curb. If debris is near a gas meter, the mechanized equipment used by trash collectors could pull up the meter, damaging it and causing a potentially hazardous situation. If this happens, leave the area immediately and call **911** and CenterPoint Energy at **888-876-5786**.
- Visit **CenterPointEnergy.com/StormCenter** for natural gas safety tips and other resources.

