



# Clallam County Fire District 3

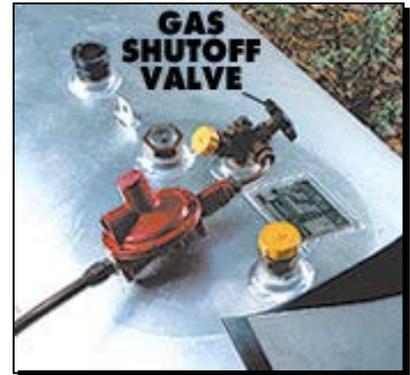
Motto: *Serve, Respect,  
Prevent and Protect*

## Turning Off Utilities

When disaster strikes it often affects one or more of the utility systems in our homes. Therefore, it is important to know where the main controls are located and to know when and how to turn them off. It is best to learn these things before disaster strikes.

### Gas:

- ◆ Locate the gas valve and learn to turn off the gas. The valve is usually found outside, where the line enters the building or at the tank. The shut off valve is usually a ¼ turn or round handle. If needed, ensure a wrench is immediately available.
- ◆ If the shutoff valve is not working properly, call the utility company for repair.
- ◆ If you smell natural gas, evacuate immediately. Do not use candles, matches, lighter, open flame appliances or operate electrical switches. Sparks could ignite a gas explosion.
- ◆ Shut off the gas **ONLY** if you smell gas or hear a hissing noise.
- ◆ Let the gas company turn the gas back on. Seek a plumber to repair gas pipe damage



### Sewer:

- ◆ Make sure the system is functioning as designed before using it. This will prevent contamination of your home and drinking water supply. *(During extended power outages, systems that use an electrical pump to force gray-water into the drain field, may fill up and back-up into your home)*
- ◆ To maintain the integrity of your septic system during a power outage, restrict the amount of water you put down the drain.
- ◆ Have a bucket or portable toilet available for disposing of human waste. Plastic bags placed in the toiled bowl will also work.

### Electricity:

- ◆ Locate your main electrical panel and learn how to turn the electrical system power off.
- ◆ If a generator is used as a backup power supply, follow the manufacturer's instructions and connect lights and appliances directly to the generator and not the electrical system.
- ◆ Generators connected to a utility company's electrical system must be inspected by the utility and the state electrical inspector.

### Water:

- ◆ Clearly label the water shut off valve and learn to turn off the water supply, typically found adjacent to the home, near the hot water heater, or at the water meter, usually near the street.
- ◆ Ensure valve can be fully turned off. If a special tool is needed, assure one is readily available.
- ◆ Shut off the main valve to prevent contamination of the water heater and plumbing.