BE PREPARED FOR AN EARTHQUAKE OR OTHER DISASTER: HOME ELECTRIC AND GAS SAFETY TIPS

Be prepared to protect your family for an earthquake or other disaster. There are several precautions you can take in the home to be prepared for damage to electric lines and natural gas leaks.

How to prepare for an earthquake or other disaster:

- Locate your gas or electrical facilities. If you need assistance locating them, contact your local electricity and gas providers.
- 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 if you smell gas – which has a smell similar to rotten eggs.
- Know how to shut off your individual appliances.
- Have an emergency phone list that includes the number to report a gas leak or downed or damaged power lines.
- Alert your local providers about damaged or downed power lines.
- Make sure your water heater is strapped or secured to the wall to prevent falling or toppling during an earthquake.

What to do during an earthquake or aftershocks:

- If you are in the kitchen, turn off cooking appliances at the first sign of shaking.
- Drop to the ground before the earthquake drops you.
- Take cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table and hold on until the shaking stops.

What to do after an earthquake or aftershocks:

- Check gas and electric lines and appliances for damage. **Do not** use electrical switches or candles to check for damage.
- If you smell gas, get everyone out of the house immediately and call your gas provider 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 your gas provider. Don't panic, light a match, candle or cigarette.
- Turn off any appliances or lights that are turned on.
- Do not use any phone in your house.
- If there is major destruction to the home and the electrical wiring may be damaged, 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 your provider or a qualified contractor has checked the house for safety.

Additional information about carbon monoxide may be found on the Arkansas Department of Health website at ***www.healthy.arkansas.gov*** or call toll-free at ***1-800-462-0599*** or go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at ***http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm***

Arkansas Department of Health
Keeping Your Hometown Healthy