

LWR CERT Gas Shutoff Guidelines

Our general policy on gas lines is to simply leave them alone. Note that once gas has been turned off, it should never be turned back on except by an authorized and trained person from your gas provider. In times of a widespread emergency, this can mean an extended delay for a homeowner to have their gas turned back on.

When gas reaches a certain concentration in a room or house, the slightest spark can set off a tremendous explosion. A light switch or telephone—even static electricity from your clothes—can produce such a spark. If you smell or hear gas, you should immediately evacuate the area and notify your Incident Commander for reporting to Emergency Services.

There may be circumstances when you notice a gas leak and make an individual decision to turn off the gas at the main supply valve. You should always insure your personal safety first. If you decide to turn off gas, you must use a non-sparking wrench, usually made from plastic or brass. There is an example of a product available from Home Depot in the picture below. If you use an adjustable wrench, it must be made of brass and should be 12” or longer.

The process to turn off gas at the main supply valve is a simple one:

Locate the main gas shutoff valve.

Your main gas shutoff valve is normally located near your gas meter. The most common places are on the side or front of a building, a cabinet located inside a building or a cabinet meter outside a building.

Have a non-sparking wrench handy.

Give the valve a quarter turn.

The valve is closed when the tang (the part of the valve you put the wrench on) is crosswise (perpendicular) to the pipe.

