

Tips of the trade



Working safely after storms

Follow these tips to protect yourself and others from utility hazards when working in storm-damaged areas.



Order our **FREE** worker safety kit on the National Grid e-SMARTworkers website.

[Order kit](#)

Use generators safely

To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, only use generators outdoors in open areas and **at least 20 feet away** from doors, windows and vents. If a CO alarm sounds, evacuate the structure and seek fresh air outdoors.

NEVER plug a generator into a wall outlet. Power can energize utility lines, making them unsafe for repair crews and possibly delaying power restoration.

Avoid natural gas hazards

- **Confirm the location of natural gas piping with the property owner** before working in or around any structure.
- **Make sure vent lines for dryers, water heaters or other gas-fueled equipment are properly connected** and have not been blocked or compromised by floodwaters, storm debris, snow or ice.
- **Do not operate any gas appliance that has been affected by floodwaters** until a qualified professional inspects it and any necessary repairs have been made.

Avoid electrical hazards

- **Stay out of flooded basements.**
- **Do not touch electrical appliances or equipment** if you are wet or standing in water.
- If you must work in wet conditions, **use tools and extension cords that are suitable for outdoor use**, and plug them into ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for shock protection.
- If you see a sagging or downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. **Stay far away** from the line and anything it is contacting and report it to 911.
- **Avoid walking and driving through floodwaters**, as water may hide fallen power lines.

Disconnect utilities before major repair work

If the job involves demolition or major repairs or renovation to a structure with active electric or gas service, **contact National Grid well in advance of starting work to arrange for the utility lines and meters to be properly disconnected.** Do not start work until National Grid says it is safe to do so.

Would you like to know more?

Additional utility safety tips, case studies, instructional videos and educational tools can all be found, at no charge to you, on National Grid's [contractor safety website](#).

For more contractor safety information, visit ngridssafety.com.

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately. Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!

Smell Gas. Act Fast.



Know what's below. **811** before you dig.

In case of gas emergencies:

Long Island and the Rockaways: **911 and 1-800-490-0045**

Metro New York: **911 and 1-718-643-4050**

Upstate New York: **911 and 1-800-892-2345**

Massachusetts: **911 and 1-800-233-5325**

In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York: **911 and 1-800-867-5222**

Massachusetts: **911 and 1-800-465-1212**