

## Disaster Rescue Procedures

1. Obtain first aid or medical care for anyone injured in the disaster. Notify your relatives of your safety. This may free local authorities from trying to locate you should you not send word. Use telephones only for essential emergency calls to allow others to obtain rescue or treatment.
2. Be on the alert for gas line leaks. Don't bring lanterns, torches, lighted cigarettes or open flames into damaged buildings. If there is any odor, shut off the gas supply immediately and contact your gas supplier as soon as possible. Open all windows and doors. Leave the building immediately. Don't reenter the building until professionals check and inform you that there is no longer a danger that gas may cause an explosion.
3. Fires can burst into flames or smolder for hours. Fire hazards, especially flammable products such as gasoline, may be spilled and some time later the vapors may reach a flammable concentration. If there is an ignition source for the flammable vapor, a home may burn up in minutes. If you can eliminate possible fire hazards without endangering yourself, do it safely.
4. Assist others needing emergency evacuation and medical care, to the degree you have the professional training. Contact the local emergency medical technicians for advice, allowing them to "talk you through" first aid procedures to provide the best care for those injured by the storm. If possible, call the emergency room at the local hospital to alert the medical staff about the injuries that need treatment. Consider neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.
5. Do not enter any building damaged by a fire, flood or storm until it has been properly "shored" or deemed stable from further collapse. Wet plaster is dangerous. Ceilings and walls may not be secure and may collapse without much contact or force. Downed wires should be avoided and treated as if they are energized. Wait for an electrician or the power company to disconnect power to the damaged property. Allow qualified electricians to remove electrical hazards before attempting to reenter damaged property.
6. Evacuate if advised by the local authorities. Find alternate housing and be cautious about contaminated water and food until the disaster has passed and electricity has been restored to cool fresh food supplies.