

INCIDENT UTILITIES

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- IC will “Benchmark” over the Operational channel **AND** Dispatch channel when utilities have been secured.
- When a utility is involved consider a representative from the appropriate purveyor.
- Always consider water-hammer when opening and closing water meters.
- If the structure is not habitable or a utility is compromised the IC shall request the responsible agency to secure the utility.

PROTOCOL:

Fire Personnel Shall:

- Never remove meters from structures.
- Exercise great caution when restoring utilities.

INSIDE UTILITIES

Electrical:

- Shut off the electrical feed to the house circuits by throwing the main breaker switch on the panel to “off”.
- To preserve evidence, individual branch circuit breakers should not be turned off. In the absence of a main/master breaker switch, individual breakers can be shut off.
 - Pay careful attention and note any circuits that have been tripped. Take a picture if you have time.
- Some remote structures (sheds, pool houses, shops etc.) may have a sub-panel that resembles a main electrical panel.
 - When a sub panel is present the main panel shall be found and secured also.

Water:

- Affected water lines within the structure that have valves can be shut off.
- To alleviate damage to water heaters shut off the power supply to those units.

Gas:

- All gas appliances within a structure should have control valves nearby. Shut them down when possible.

OUTSIDE UTILITIES

Electrical:

- Power company representatives shall be the only personnel to remove the meter.
- The “throwing” of remote breakers and/or fuses can be done after confirmation with Incident Command.
- Only appliances or units affected shall be shut off using the applicable “enclosed” disconnect switch. **Bunker gear, gloves, and eye protection shall be used anytime a remote breaker and/or fuse is “thrown” to off.**

Water:

- Outside water supplies shall be shut off only when directed by Incident Command.
- Fire Suppression systems shall only be shut off by **confirmed** directive of the Incident Commander.
- Potable water supply valves on the structure side of the meter may be shut off by fire personnel when directed.

Natural Gas:

- Close the quarter turn valve on the supply side of the meter.
- Once the gas is shut off to the structure it should only be turned on by the utility company.

Propane (LPG):

- Close the valve at the supply tank to secure the propane service.
- If multiple tanks are “piggybacked” together shut all of them down.
- Propane is heavier than air and can pool in low areas.