



## **Home safety in flood situations Protect your gas and electrical appliances and systems**

**New Westminster, BC, March 17, 2007** – With snow melts and spring rains threatening to flood parts of the province, the British Columbia Safety Authority reminds residents that now is the time to take steps to protect your home's electrical equipment and natural or propane gas piping and appliances from damage caused by water and contaminants.

### **In advance of a flood**

If you have enough advance warning, have a licensed contractor remove hot water tanks, clothes dryers and ranges, and cap the gas pipe leading to the appliance shut off valve. Also, remove the electric motor, burner and controls from your furnace and shut off the gas and electrical supply. Move as much electrical equipment as possible to floors or areas above the anticipated flood level.

### **Before you evacuate**

If you have to leave your home unexpectedly because of immediate flooding and don't have advance notice, be sure to do the following:

- Turn off the service valve at the gas meter or propane tank and the gas shut off valve on all gas appliances.
- Shut off all electrical power by turning off the main service switch, and turn off the power to each electrical appliance
- Do not drain hot water tanks - just shut off the water leading to and from the tank

For information about cleaning up, reconnecting and returning home after a flood, call the BC Safety Authority's toll free line at **1-866-566-SAFE (7233)** or visit [www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca) (under safety information - public safety tips).

Information about flooding is also available from the Provincial Emergency Program, BC Hydro and Terasen Gas websites.

The BC Safety Authority is an independent, non-profit corporation that provides cost-effective and essential safety services to business, industry and the general public.

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