

## Safety after a disaster

### Storm

After a disaster, property damage may cause unusual and additional safety hazards. Many disaster-related injuries and deaths occur during cleanup. Here’s what to check:

Item	Action	Status
<b>Combustible or explosive gases</b>	Natural gas and other fuel lines may have broken during a hurricane, and highly explosive gas vapours may be present in buildings. Other explosive gases may accumulate from decaying materials. Inspect for leaking gas lines by smell only. Do not use candles, matches or other open flames. If you smell gas, open all windows and doors so gas can escape. Shut off the main valve at your gas meter, leave the building immediately, and notify authorities of the leak.	
<b>Fuel burning devices</b>	Always ensure fuel-burning devices – such as gasoline-powered generators, gasoline-powered pressure washers, camp stoves, lanterns and charcoal grills – are used outside and three metres (10 feet) away from windows, doors or other intakes. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in a building. Have vents and chimneys checked to ensure that debris does not block or impede the exhaust from water heaters and gas furnaces. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air immediately. Death or full incapacitation can result quickly from CO poisoning.	
<b>Water damage</b>	See the <b>Flood</b> disaster sheet.	

