



HOME UTILITY SAFETY

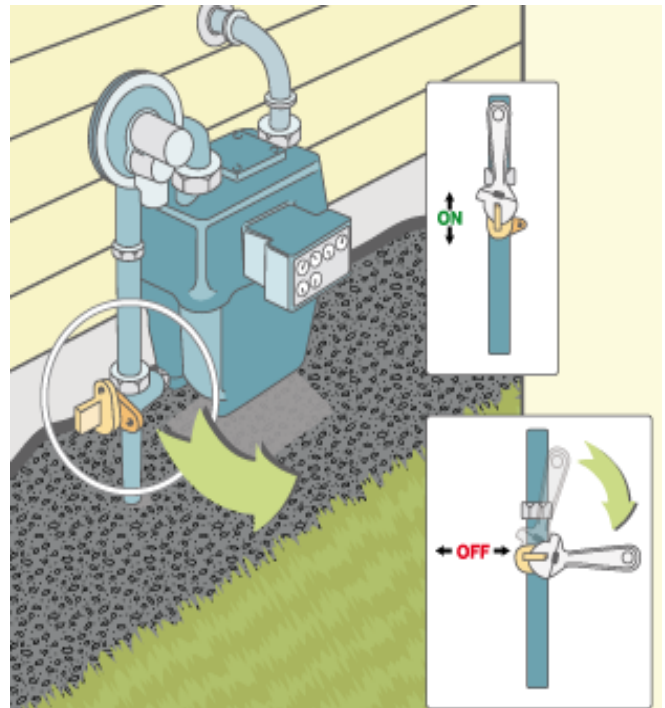
In Rancho Palos Verdes, home utility services include Electricity, Natural Gas, and Water services. While most of the time these services are provided without issue, it is important to understand how to stay safe with these utilities at home. Read below for utility emergency safety tips and guidance. Always consult the local utility provider and/or a licensed professional for additional home utility safety requirements and suggestions.

Electrical: Southern California Edison – <https://www.sce.com/>

- A Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet will cut power when an imbalance in current is detected. Having a licensed electrician install GFCI outlet in wet areas like bathrooms, kitchens, garages, and outdoors is required by code and can prevent electrical arcing that can lead to a fire.
- Do not overload outlets with too many devices or plugs.
- Use extension cords that are not damaged and that have a third (ground) prong.
- Consider outlet covers or safety plug
- Only use approved space heaters that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo, which indicates it meets safety standards.
- Never use stoves, barbecues, or ovens for heating since they can produce deadly carbon monoxide.

Gas: Southern California Gas Company – www.socalgas.com

- Natural gas is naturally odorless, but Mercaptan, a sulfur or rotten egg smelling additive, is added to natural gas so it becomes recognizable when present.
- If you smell gas, do NOT light matches, smoke, or use appliances. Open windows and doors as you leave the building and call 911.
- Know where your gas shut off is and know how to turn it off. Ensure you have a tool, such as a crescent wrench, close by the meter in case you must shut it off.
- Install smoke detectors that include Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors near bedrooms and around the house.
- Store flammable items such as paint, paper goods, and solvents away from gas appliances.
- Cal 811 or visit www.california811.org prior to any digging project to have underground natural gas lines identified and marked to prevent accidental leaks, fires, explosions, and injuries.





BE READY RPV



Water: California Water Service – www.calwater.com/rpv

- If a water leak occurs locate the closest water shut off valve. For sinks, shutoff valves may be under the sink and/or located outside near a hose bib connection. The main water shut off may also be in the water meter box near the sidewalk or street at the front of your property.
- Using a meter key, wrench, or screwdriver, turn the valve closest to your home clockwise, a quarter turn till the water stops.
- Attempt to contain the water by diverting to a drain or outside using rolled up towels.

GET THE NOTIFICATION

- Stay alert and pay attention to weather reports, forecasts, and warnings.
- Sign up for **Alert Southbay** to receive local emergency alerts for RPV:
Text AlertSB to 888777, online at alertsouthbay.com, download the free Everbridge app on Google Play or the App Store.
- Download the MyRPV App on your device to stay connected to what is happening in the city.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Peninsula Public Safety Committee Meeting – February 12th at 7:30am

The Palos Verdes Peninsula's Public Safety Committee is meeting via Zoom on Thursday February 12, 2026 at 7:30a.m.

At this meeting, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan draft will be presented and the public will have an opportunity to provide input and questions. The agenda and zoom link will be posted here prior to the meeting: www.rpvca.gov/1524/Peninsula-Public-Safety-Committee

BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

Every month the EPC provides a single item to add to your emergency supply kit to ensure you are prepared.



This month's item: Adjustable Wrench or multi-purpose tool to shutoff gas when there is a leak. You can include this in your household kit or place it next to your gas shutoff valve.

To have this monthly message from the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) sent to your inbox, sign up here:

<https://www.rpvca.gov/list.aspx>.

For additional information and resources, please contact the EPC at EPC@rpvca.gov or (310) 544-5209 .



LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

Prepared by Chief Executive Office, Risk Management Branch
Loss Control and Prevention Section
320 W. Temple St., Suite 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Call (213) 738-2269 for additional information.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space. Due to this feature, they are used to supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If used incorrectly, such as for an application other than originally designed, or if they become damaged or defective, these batteries can overheat, catch on fire, or explode.



LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly. Look for these markings or symbols:
 - “CSA” (CSA Group)
 - “ETL” (Intertek)
 - “UL” (Underwriters Laboratories)
 - *Note: If product has a “CE” marking, it means it’s sold in Europe and isn’t recommended for use in the United States.*
- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Place batteries in the device the right way.
- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.
- Only use the charging equipment that is supplied with your device.
 - Many “aftermarket” chargers have been known to overheat.
- Stop charging a battery once it is full (at 100%) and remove from power source to avoid overheating.
- Store batteries at room temperature when possible.
- Don’t store lithium-ion batteries in direct sunlight or inside vehicles.
- Keep batteries or devices away from heat sources.
- Keep batteries or devices away from anything that can catch fire.
- Do not charge a battery when either the charger or the battery is damaged.
- Do not store batteries in an area that blocks the only exit out of a room.
- Do not attempt to modify the battery or charger.

PROBLEM INDICATORS

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems:

- Odor
- Change in color
- Excessive heat
- Change in shape
- Leaking
- Odd noises

If you encounter any of these and it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. **Call 911 if necessary.**

BATTERY DISPOSAL

Do not place lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is the best option. Do not place discarded batteries in piles. **Follow your department's battery recycling procedure if you must dispose of the battery at your work location.**

CHARGING E-BIKE or ELECTRIC VEHICLE

The safest place to charge these devices is outdoors in a flat, dry area away from structures, children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the electronic vehicle is not at risk of falling.

Electric Vehicles: Safe Charging at Home

SAFETY TIPS

- Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.
- Do not use extension cords with the charger.
- Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.
- Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.
- Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.
- Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician:
 - ~ Check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.
 - ~ Install a new circuit just for your charging device.

Warning!

- ⚡ Electric vehicles have high voltage batteries.
- ⚡ Battery maintenance should be performed by the manufacturer.
- ⚡ Do not touch the orange high voltage cables.



For Level 1 Charging:

- Use the charging cord that came with the electric vehicle.
- Use a standard household plug.
- Make sure charger or outlet has GFCI protection.
- Use only a dedicated circuit to charge.

For Level 2 Charging:

- Use a 240-volt outlet. A qualified electrician needs to install this type of outlet.
- Only use outdoor rated charging stations outdoors.
- Keep cords off the ground.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The Leading Information and Knowledge Resource on Fire,
Electrical, and Related Hazards

Your Logo

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire and explode.

The Problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.



Scan Me

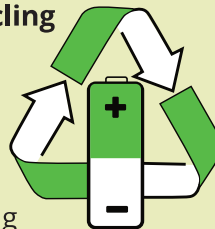


Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Safe and responsible hazardous and e-waste recycling and disposal:

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.
- Dispose lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling facilities to avoid environmental hazards or call 2-1-1 for assistance.

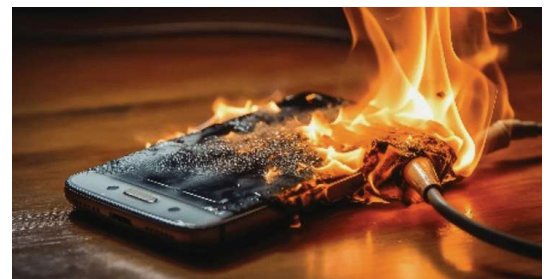


For a responsible way to dispose of hazardous waste, visit:

[Household Hazardous Waste - CleanLA \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/cleanla)

Safety Tips...

- Purchase devices that are listed by a testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Install batteries in each device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.



Discover more safety topics at:
fire.lacounty.gov



• LACoFD



LosAngelesCountyFD



• LACountyFD



• LACoFD