



CenterPoint Energy Assessing Hurricane Damage in Mississippi, Offers Post- Storm Natural Gas Safety Tips

HOUSTON, Aug 30, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- CenterPoint Energy (NYSE: CNP) started assessing damage to its natural gas facilities today and has called in additional company crews from north Louisiana, Houston and Arkansas to help handle emergencies and begin to restore natural gas service.

"We have started damage assessment today but there are still many areas in our service territory that we are unable to reach due to flooding and debris," said Mike Foley, CenterPoint Energy district manager in Gulfport. "At this point, we are handling natural gas emergencies only, which can be reported to 228.896.7500 or 800-371-5417."

Often the most dangerous part of a hurricane is the aftermath. CenterPoint Energy offers these post-storm natural gas safety tips.

Natural Gas Safety Tips

- * If you smell gas when you return to your home, leave the house and call CenterPoint Energy from a neighbor's house or a remote location as soon as possible.
- * If your home was flooded, call a licensed plumber or a gas appliance technician to inspect your appliances and gas piping to make sure it is in good operating condition before calling CenterPoint Energy to reconnect service. This includes outdoor gas appliances also, such as pool heaters, gas grills, and gas lights.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution and sales, and interstate pipeline and gathering operations. The company serves nearly five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total approximately \$16 billion. With more than 9,000 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. In Mississippi, CenterPoint Energy serves more than 125,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in about 100 communities. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com> .

SOURCE CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

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