

# GETTING WATER FROM YOUR HOT WATER HEATER IN AN EMERGENCY

## TESTING ONLY

1. Follow these steps to conduct a test of the process.
2. Connect a hose to the drain valve located close to the thermostat, but do not open the valve yet.
3. Turn off the cold water supply that feeds the water-heater.
4. Inside your house, turn on a hot water faucet in one of your sinks or tubs in the house. This will prevent a vacuum from forming in the lines.
5. Go back to the water-heater, and open the drain valve to drain 1-2 gallons of hot water from the tank. Make sure the far end of the hose is draining somewhere that will not be harmed by hot water. An outside driveway or a bucket is ideal.

CAUTION: Remember that the water will be very hot. Do not let the drain water contact your skin as you may get burned.

## DURING AN EMERGENCY ONLY

1. For ELECTRIC water heaters - turn off the power at the breaker-box.
1. For GAS water heaters - turn the thermostat to the "pilot" setting.

*Follow steps 2-5, under TESTING (listed above)*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.



## DURING AN EMERGENCY (continued)

***After following steps 2-5, under TESTING on page 1***

6. When you have drawn out the water that you need, close the DRAIN valve. Do not forget to turn off the hot water faucet inside your house.

7. DO NOT TURN ON THE HEATING ELEMENT UNTIL YOU HAVE REFILLED THE TANK WITH FRESH WATER. The heating element could possibly explode if there is no water in the tank. Some tanks may need to be completely full in order to prevent damage. When in doubt, always read the warnings and instructions on the tank label carefully because each tank may vary! INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOT WATER HEATER OPERATION MAY BE FOUND ONLINE.

8. Do not refill the tank until you know that the emergency has passed and that all water lines are safe for drinking.

9. After the tank has filled with water, turn the power-supply to the water heater back on at the breaker box (or the thermostat),

10. Once the water temperature has been brought back up, test the pressure relief valve according to the manufacturer's instructions. This safety device is designed to prevent excess pressure build-up or overheating inside the tank. If it is faulty, you may need to have it replaced by a licensed plumber.

Demonstration at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare>

