Restoration of city gas supplies in the Tohoku and Kanto regions
- Recovery work accelerates with the help of gas utilities throughout Japan -

City gas

- City gas supplies were suspended in 19 regions in 8 prefectures due to damage to production facilities and pipes. As restoration work progressed, supplies have resumed to 326,363 (approx. 80%) households. In 75,613 households in 4 regions of the 2 prefectures (Miyagi and Fukushima) gas supplies have still suspended and restoration is necessary.
- Unlike gasoline and light oil, LNG is not in short supply now. Gas supplies have been disrupted only due to damage to production facilities and gas pipes in certain areas. Therefore, gas supply is resuming in areas where production facilities have been restored and become able to supply gas to the local network of pipes, but only after safety is verified in each house by gas utility technicians mobilized in large numbers.

- All gas utilities aim for the full resumption of gas supply in April with the exception of seriously damaged areas too difficult to work in.
- Sendai City Gas Bureau, which had the largest number of customers waiting for supply restoration (approx. 311,144 households), began to resume supply on March 23 and has already restored supply to 244,569 households (79% of total) after securing pipelines from Niigata, although its tsunami-ravaged LNG base is expected to take considerable time for operation to resume. As a result of additional aid workers from gas utilities throughout Japan, total of 4,500 workers are processing approx. 17,000 gas openings per day. It was originally expected that complete restoration of supply would be achieved in April, but a near-complete restoration will be achieved 10 days earlier than expected. Sendai City Gas aims for the full resumption of gas supply in April (with the exception of areas too difficult to work in). Shiogama Gas, which is connected to Sendai City Gas via pipes, completed recovery work on April 12.
- As for the three hardest-hit gas utilities (Kamaishi, Kesennuma and Ishinomaki), Kamaishi and Kesennuma restarted supply to general customers on March 28. Kamaishi completed restoration on April 11 and Kesennuma has already restored 90% of its total supplies. Ishinomaki has been unable to restart of gas supply for a long time due to serious damage of gas production facilities, but has gradually resumed gas supply since April 11 by using temporary facilities.
- In areas facing supply disruption in Fukushima, where local gas companies were individually progressing restoration, but Tokyo Gas joined them after finishing work to resume supply to 30,008 customers in the Hitachi district, and Joban City Gas completed restoration of gas supplies on April 12, and Joban Kyodo Gas has restored 83% of its total supplies.

Supply via pipelines from Niigata

- To compensate for the tsunami-damaged LNG base in Sendai, which will take considerable time to repair, supplies via pipelines from Niigata were increased to resume supplies from Sendai City Gas and Shiogama Gas.

Recovery aid from utilities elsewhere

- Under the initiative of the Japan Gas Association, gas utilities elsewhere are sending recovery aid teams upon request from affected utilities, with an advance team sent on March 12.
- Total of 4,500 aid workers are opening gas supplies in Sendai City Gas.

Provision of portable gas cartridge stoves

- The Japan Gas Association reported that 8,648 portable gas cartridge stoves and 29,501 gas cartridges had been sent to the affected gas utilities. They are responding to additional requests.

Community gas

- Community gas supplies are resuming gradually, however gas supplies are still suspended in approx. 2,000 households in apartment houses of the 2 prefectures (Iwate and Miyagi).
- Since most community gas utilities are LP gas suppliers, gas needed for community gas customers has been secured separately through LP gas supply-related measures.
- Utilities are continuing efforts to repair damaged pipes and other equipment, while striving to resume supply to customers as early as possible, by taking measures including installation of gas cylinders in individual apartments as an alternative.