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 78,194 households. However, 325,525 households in 9 regions in the 4 prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Chiba still lack gas supplies and are waiting for restoration.
- Unlike gasoline and light oil, LNG is not in short supply now. Gas supplies are 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.
- 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 after securing pipelines from Niigata, although its tsunami-ravaged LNG base is expected to take considerable time for operation to resume. Osaka Gas and other gas utilities from around Japan joined the recovery effort, increasing the number of workers to up to 3,200. Sendai City Gas expects to resume the majority of supplies in one to one and a half months. Shiogama Gas, which is connected to Sendai City Gas via pipes, is conducting recovery work in the same manner.
- The three hardest-hit gas utilities (Kamaishi, Kesennuma and Ishinomaki) are struggling to assess the damage and develop recovery plans. Hospitals and other critical facilities have begun to receive temporary supplies from portable gas generators.
- In areas facing supply disruption in Fukushima and Chiba, restoration efforts by local gas companies has accelerated since Tokyo Gas joined them after finishing the work to resume supplies to its own 30,008 customers in the Hitachi district.

Supply via pipelines from Niigata

- To compensate for the tsunami-damaged LNG base in Sendai, which will take considerable time to restore function, 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.
- The number of aid workers joining Sendai City Gas will reach up to 2,700.

Temporary supply to hospitals

- Until supply restoration, hospitals and other critical facilities receive temporary gas supplies from portable gas generators.

Provision of portable gas cartridge stoves

- The Japan Gas Association reported that 7,448 portable gas cartridge stoves and 25,901 gas cartridges had been sent to the affected gas utilities. They are responding to additional requests.

Community gas

- Although community gas supplies are resuming gradually, about 10,000 households in apartment houses in the 4 prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Ibaraki still lack gas supplies due to damage to pipes or devastating damage to apartment buildings.
- 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.