In many cases, LP gas has an important role to play in disaster relief. Here are its principal benefits:

**PORTABLE**

LP Gas can be transported, stored, and used virtually anywhere in the world. It does not require a fixed network and its energy content does not deteriorate over time.

Thanks to the fuel’s portability, facilities using LP Gas can promptly recover from disasters and this same portability means that evacuation services can be easily provided with energy.

The portability of LP Gas can help to prevent secondary disasters, since grid or pipeline infrastructures are susceptible to fire if they become damaged in the event of an earthquake, hurricane or flood.

**EFFICIENT**

LP Gas is cost-effective, since a high proportion of its energy content is converted into heat. Even though it too is an open-flame fuel, LP Gas can be up to five times more efficient than so-called ‘traditional fuels’ (such as wood or coal).

**SAFE**

Compared to other fuels, LP Gas has an excellent safety record when handled properly. It is also non-toxic and burns cleaner than traditional fuels.

**KEY USES**

- Boiling water
- Heating and refrigeration
- Fueling temporary kitchens
- Power generation
- Powering wireless communications
- Etc.

The World LP Gas Association (WLPGA) is a growing network with more than 160 members headquartered in over 50 countries. It represents the interests of private and public companies from the entire LP Gas value chain under one umbrella.

As the global voice for LP Gas, the WLPGA promotes the use of the fuel to foster a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous world.

The association was officially granted Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1989 and is available to establish contacts between aid agencies and the LP Gas industry.

For more information on LP Gas, sources of supply, equipment and appliances contact:

**WORLD LP GAS ASSOCIATION**

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LP GAS: THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF ENERGY IN DISASTER RELIEF
CASE STUDY: HURRICANE KATRINA, USA, AUGUST, 2005

Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama when it reached land on 29th August 2005. Katrina is now considered the deadliest and costliest hurricane in the U.S. in over 40 years. In all, more than 1,400 people were killed and damages are estimated to have exceeded more than $53 billion.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, LP Gas was used for cooking, heating, refrigeration, and to boil drinking water in the 122,000 temporary housing canavans set up for evacuates. Power companies used it to run generators. It also ran forklifts, and provided laundry services.

LP GAS PROVIDES RELIEF TO THOSE AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

When natural disasters such as earthquakes, torrential hurricanes, mudslides, droughts, or floods strike, they can directly affect millions of people, with the result that many are forced to seek temporary accommodation, especially women and children. For example, the United Nations development programme to provide disaster relief for people affected by the 2005 earthquake in the area of Kashmir, Pakistan.

With more than 160 members, headquartered in over 50 countries, the world LP Gas Association is available, and ready, to help establish contact between relief agencies and the LP Gas industry, whenever needed.

CASE STUDY: EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN, OCTOBER, 2005

A massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck South Asia on the 8th October, 2005. The area of Kashmir was particularly affected with thousands killed, many more injured, and several million left homeless. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) developed a project to meet the heating and cooking requirements of people in earthquake affected areas, through the use of LP Gas.

Over a very short period of time, 56,500 LP Gas packages were provided to displaced persons living in camps, child-friendly centres, clinics/health centres, community kitchens, hot water bathing facilities and individual households. The packages consisted of LP Gas cylinders with cooking and heating equipment and two to three refill, enough to last the cold winter months. This provided substantive support to the people affected.

UNDP’s initial assessment, after having interviewed some of the beneficiaries, indicates that people would even like to continue using LP Gas thanks to its convenience and ease of use. It reduced the burden normally placed on women who are typically responsible for the collection of fuel.

The intervention is self-sustaining. In areas where the supply of LP Gas is available and most people still use their LP Gas equipment.

LP Gas served as the power for wireless companies working to restore communications, as well as for churches, schools and local businesses while continuing to provide energy to residential customers. An agreement was reached between the LP Gas industry and the Salvation Army to provide LP Gas to prepare meals for displaced victims. The Mississippi Propane Association, for example, provided LP Gas to 62 relief kitchens in the local disaster area. On top of that, the Salvation Army operated 40 local canteens, as well as 100 mobile kitchens in the affected area.

“LP Gas has been of great help. We feel that without LP Gas the camps would have used large quantities of wood by cutting down local vegetation and causing irreversible damage to the environment surrounding the camps.”

Abid Qadir
UNDP Pakistan