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Portable Generators: The Most Valuable Tool for Ice Fishing

CLEVELAND, OHIO (December 10, 2014) – Portable generators can be a valuable resource, providing ice fishers with temporary electric power, but portable generators also can be dangerous. In order to avoid carbon monoxide dangers, users should be prepared.

“When ice fishing this season, be prepared with temporary electric power from a portable generator; but also be safe. Proper precaution should be taken at all times,” said Susan Orenga, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers’ Association (PGMA). “The goal of PGMA and its members is to be proactive in our communication regarding the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning through the improper use of portable generators.”

Although there are many benefits to using a portable generator while on the ice, some fishermen may be unaware of the dangers, especially when it comes to carbon monoxide poisoning. Contained in toxic engine exhaust, carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that is tasteless, colorless and odorless. To minimize these tragedies, it’s important for users to understand proper placement and usage of a generator. Here are some key safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Keep generators outdoors.** Only operate a generator outside, far away from windows, doors and vents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not use portable generators inside small space or other partially-enclosed spaces. Generators should not be placed directly on the ice as the small engine that powers portable generators will produce some heat and could cause melting.
- **Always place your portable generator downwind.** Pointing the exhaust away from occupied spaces is critical to avoid carbon monoxide accumulating in occupied spaces.
- **Get to fresh air.** If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using your portable generator, move to fresh air immediately. Do not attempt to shut off the portable generator first.
- **Be prepared.** Always read and follow the operator’s manual before starting the generator.

Users should recognize the warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning and understand the benefits of a properly installed carbon monoxide alarm. The best way to operate a portable generator and safely control carbon monoxide gas is to read and follow the operator’s manual before starting the generator.

NEWS RELEASE

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About Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association

The Portable Generator Manufacturers Association (PGMA) is a trade association that seeks to develop and influence safety and performance standards for the portable generator industry and its products. Formed in 2009, PGMA members include the major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America including [American Honda Motor Co.](#), [Briggs & Stratton Home Power Products](#), [Champion Power Equipment](#), [Generac Power Systems](#), [Pramac America](#), [Subaru Industrial Power](#), [Techtronic Industries North America](#), [Wacker Neuson Production Americas LLC](#) and [Yamaha Motor Corp USA](#).

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