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Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association Urges Users To 'Take It Outside'

Safety campaign, website warn of carbon monoxide dangers with misuse

February 24, 2021—Each year, portable generators are a lifesaver for thousands of consumers, providing temporary emergency power in storms and natural disasters. They also bring the fun for gatherings away from a ready power supply, like tailgating and outdoor parties. However, improper use of portable generators can have deadly consequences due to the presence of carbon monoxide.

Because of the cases of misuse, the Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association (PGMA) has created the [Take It Outside](#) campaign. The trade association and the Take It Outside campaign seek to develop and influence safety and performance standards for its industry's products, and, as part of the campaign, developed a website dedicated to safe usage of portable generators. Promotion of the campaign becomes a public health emergency as major winter storms grip the nation, but also in advance of the June 1st official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, with the 2021 season predicted to be above normal with as many as 16 named storms.¹

The emissions from portable generators contain carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that is tasteless, colorless, odorless, and impossible for the human senses to detect. For this reason, portable generators can NEVER be used inside. Even using them in partially enclosed spaces can be deadly.

"PGMA wants the public to safely use our industry's products," said Susan Orenge, executive director of the Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association. "We created Take It Outside to keep safety top of mind and gave it a name that sums up the key to safe operation. Take It Outside—that's the only safe place for your portable generator to be operated."

The Take It Outside website includes downloads, a video, and is full of helpful safety tips.

Most important is to NOT operate portable generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawlspaces, sheds or other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Using fans or opening doors and windows will not help. Carbon monoxide can quickly build up and linger for hours in these places, even after the generator has been turned off.

Only operate a portable generator outside and be sure it is placed far away (and downwind) from windows, doors, and vents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide gas accumulating and potentially being drawn toward occupied spaces.

Always install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or plug-in alarms with battery backup according to the manufacturer's instructions. Smoke alarms cannot detect carbon monoxide gas.

Know the symptoms of low-level carbon monoxide poisoning. They can be similar to those caused by cold, flu, food poisoning, or other illness. If you or a family member feel sick, dizzy, or weak or are experiencing any other symptoms, get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical attention.

For more, visit www.TakeYourGeneratorOutside.com.

About PGMA

The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association (PGMA) is a trade association that seeks to develop and influence safety and performance standards for our industry's products. The Association is also dedicated to educating consumers and tradespersons on the safe use of portable generators and has developed the Take it Outside™ campaign to support its mission. Formed in 2009, PGMA members include major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America and a significant majority of the industry. www.pgmaonline.com.

Member companies include: American Honda Motor Co., Briggs & Stratton, LLC, Champion Power Equipment, DuroMax Power Equipment, Firman Power Equipment, Generac Power Systems, Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., Yamaha Motor Corp USA, Figaro USA, Inc., and GenTent Safety Canopies.

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¹Tropical Storm Risk (TSR)