

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Jill Heggen

jillh@swansonrussell.com

(402) 818-1151

Be Prepared This Winter with a Portable Generator

CLEVELAND, OHIO (November 2014) – When winter storms hit, many can be left without power. During the aftermath of a winter weather storm, the use of portable generators can help families and communities regain normalcy.

“Generator demand has increased nationwide in recent years in the wake of devastating storms and harsh winters,” said Joe Harding, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers’ Association (PGMA). “We want to provide safety tips for those people who are purchasing portable generators for the first time and those who already own generators and simply may be unfamiliar with safe operation and best practices.”

Portable generators, if not operated properly, can be dangerous. Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused by the improper use of portable generators. Generator exhaust contains high level of carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that is tasteless, colorless and odorless. For any situation that requires temporary power to be available, consider the following preparation and safety tips.

- **Keep generators in wide-open spaces.** 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 homes or other partially-enclosed spaces.
- **Always place your portable generator downwind.** Pointing the exhaust away from occupied spaces is critical to avoid carbon monoxide accumulating. Carbon monoxide can build up in these spaces and linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- **Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm.** Always read and follow the operator’s manual before starting the generator.
- **Get away from the generator if you feel sick.** If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while using your portable generator, get to fresh air immediately. Do not attempt to shut off the portable generator before moving to fresh air.

The more you are prepared for winter weather, the better off you and your family will be when the power goes out. For more information, visit www.pgmaonline.com.

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](#).

###