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Big Flavor, Smart Power: Safe Portable Generator Usage for Food Trucks *PGMA encourages proven generator safety practices, CO detection on multiple fronts*

April 21, 2026—Food trucks have popped up in every city, delivering fresh, creative cuisine from their windows directly to hungry customers. Their mobility and independence are part of what makes them successful. To power refrigeration, point-of-sale systems, lighting, and ventilation equipment, many food truck operators rely on portable generators as a critical part of their daily operations.



The [Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association \(PGMA\)](#) proudly supports food truck entrepreneurs who depend on portable power to keep their kitchens running. PGMA recognizes the essential role generators play in mobile food service and encourages operators to follow proven safety practices to protect their customers, staff, and neighboring vendors.

Carbon monoxide (CO) safety is crucial in mobile kitchen environments. Generators should always be operated outdoors as far away from the truck as possible, with exhaust directed away from service windows, doors, air intakes, and customer lines. CO is invisible and odorless and can accumulate quickly in and around enclosed workspaces. Food truck operators should continuously monitor CO levels and install a secondary CO detector inside the truck for added protection.

“Food truck operators work in compact, high-output environments where safety planning is essential,” said Guillermo Rodriguez Sr., director, global product safety and product compliance at Harbor Freight and spokesman for PGMA. “We want every operator to establish a safe generator operating zone before each event, position exhaust away from any openings, and use carbon monoxide detection inside the vehicle. A few simple precautions can help ensure a successful and safe service.”

Operators are encouraged to select portable generators that meet ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 (or later) safety standards. Generators built to this standard include integrated CO shutoff systems designed to automatically turn the unit off if unsafe carbon monoxide levels are detected around the generator. By following established safety guidelines, food truck operators can continue to safely serve their communities.

PGMA provides safety resources specifically designed to help generator users operate responsibly and confidently. Food truck operators can access generator safety information at:
<https://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., Champion Power Equipment, DuroMax Power Equipment, Firman Power Equipment, Generac Power Systems, JD North America, Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., and associate members, Figaro USA, Inc., GenTent Safety Canopies, and Nemoto Sensor Engineering.

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