



Major Winter Storm Expected to Cause Widespread Power Outages *Industry group details best practices to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning due to portable generator misuse*

February 23, 2023—According to the current forecast from the National Weather Service, a massive winter storm could cause widespread power outages as it makes its way across the northern United States. Frozen power lines coupled with strong winds can lead to widespread power outages, while plummeting temperatures increase demand for home heating. With the winter storms, many residents will turn to portable generators to provide heat and other essential power to their homes. The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association educates consumers on the safe use of portable generators. The [Take it Outside™](#) campaign support its mission, named for the simple, life-saving advice that portable generators must always be operated outdoors.

Portable generators are life-saving tools in times of emergency. However, because of improper consumer use, they can also be deadly. Year after year, people suffer carbon monoxide poisoning due to improper usage of portable generators. Information and preparedness can help prevent tragedy.

These rules for safe operation of a portable generator, and other safety tips, can be found at <https://www.takeyourgeneratoroutside.com/>:

- **Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning** (headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath and fatigue). If you experience symptoms, get to fresh air immediately.
- **Always read the owner's manual first.**
- **Stay alert with carbon monoxide detectors in your home.**
- **Keep the generator far away from doors and windows.**
- **Point fumes in a different direction.** Place the generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from any nearby people.
- **If you feel carbon monoxide symptoms, leave right away.** If you experience symptoms, don't attempt to turn off the generator before moving to fresh air.

Inevitably, winter storms will come and power outages will happen. Please consider reviewing PGMA's [safety materials \(in English and Spanish\)](#). Also, if you are in the market for a portable generator, look for generators that meet the ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 standard which include CO shut off technology to stop the generator from running when carbon monoxide begins to accumulate as a result of improper operation in enclosed spaces.

About PGMA

Formed in 2009, PGMA members include major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America and a significant majority of the industry. Learn more at www.pgmaonline.com.