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Keep the Power: How to Prepare for Hurricane Season

CLEVELAND, OHIO (April 6, 2015) – During the aftermath of severe weather, the use of portable generators becomes more frequent, helping families and communities reconnect to their lives when power is lost. While power outages can be caused by any kind of storm or aging electrical grids, you can be prepared when left without power.

“Being prepared for severe weather in advance will help you to keep the power on during whatever weather comes our way,” said Susan Orenga, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers’ Association (PGMA). “Take preemptive measures to prepare your home and keep the power on safely during severe weather.”

Part of the preparation should include a portable generator to maintain power in the event of a utility power outage. Although there are many benefits to using a portable generator, some people may be unaware of the dangers, especially when it comes to carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and deadly gas. To minimize the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, it’s important for users to understand proper placement and usage of a generator. Here are some key safety tips to keep in mind:

- Never run a portable generator indoors or in partially-enclosed spaces.
- Always place a portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces.
- Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while using your portable generator, get to fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical attention.
- Always refer to the generator owner’s manual for further information about safe operation and potential hazards.

Regardless of the events requiring the use of portable generators, safety precautions should be considered in order to reduce risks of carbon monoxide poisoning. No matter how long or short a power outage is, being prepared will eliminate last-minute stress and uncertainty. And having an emergency preparedness plan in place will save your family money and headaches down the road.

To learn more, visit 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](#), [Kipor Power Equipment](#), [Subaru Industrial Power](#), [Techtronic Industries Power Equipment](#), [Wacker Neuson Production Americas LLC](#) and [Yamaha Motor Corp USA](#).

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