

WELCOME

CARBON
MONOXIDE
Colorless. Odorless. Deadly.

The use of portable generators can help families and communities quickly regain normalcy during the aftermath of severe weather. 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 (CO) poisoning. Contained in toxic engine exhaust, CO is a deadly gas that is tasteless, colorless and odorless.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the majority of carbon monoxide deaths with portable generators occurred as a result of using a generator inside a home's living space, in the basement or in the garage.

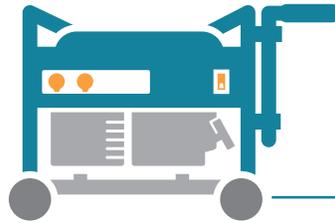
To minimize these tragedies, it's important for users to understand proper placement and usage of a generator, recognize the warning signs of CO poisoning, and understand the benefits of a properly installed CO alarm.

The goal of PGMA and its members is to be proactive in our communication regarding the dangers of CO poisoning through the improper use of portable generators. We are committed to educating the public on proper selection and safe usage of portable generators.

IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL FIND

- CO Alarm Facts
- Emergency Checklist
- Carbon Monoxide Facts
- News Release

Please help spread the word about the dangers of CO poisoning and simple ways to prevent unnecessary deaths. Contact us for more information regarding our Generator Usage Public Service Campaign.



NEVER
RUN A PORTABLE
GENERATOR **INDOORS**
OR IN ANY **PARTIALLY**
ENCLOSED SPACE.

KEEP GENERATORS
FAR AWAY
FROM A HOUSE

CO ALARM FACTS

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Are CO alarms reliable?

CO alarms are designed to alert users before life-threatening levels of CO are reached. Safety standards for CO alarms are continually improved and new alarms are not as susceptible to nuisance alarms as earlier models.

How should a CO alarm be tested to ensure it's working?

Consumers should follow the manufacturer's instructions. Using the test button tests whether the circuitry is operating correctly, not the sensor accuracy.

How should I install a CO alarm?

CO alarms should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. CPSC recommends that one CO alarm be installed in the hallway outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area of the home. Hard-wired or plug-in CO alarms should have a battery back up. Avoid locations that are near heating vents or that can be covered by furniture or draperies. CPSC does not recommend installing CO alarms in kitchens or above fuel-burning appliances.

KNOW THE DANGERS of CO Poisoning



Based on 1 hour carbon monoxide exposure (parts per million)*

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 0-9 ppm | no health risk; normal CO levels in air. |
| 10-29 ppm | problems over long-term exposure; chronic CO problems such as headaches, nausea - not the most dangerous level |
| 30-35 ppm | flu-like symptoms begin to develop, especially among the young and the elderly |
| 36-99 ppm | flu-like symptoms among all; nausea, headaches, fatigue or drowsiness, vomiting; most CO detectors sound off here |
| 100 + ppm | severe symptoms; confusion, intense headaches; ultimately brain damage, coma, and/or death, especially at 300 to 400 ppm+ |

* Consumer Product Safety Commission

NEVER IGNORE A RINGING CO ALARM!

It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard.



- Immediately move outside to fresh air
- Call your emergency services, fire department or 911
- After calling 911, be sure that everyone is accounted for. DO NOT reenter the premises until emergency responders have given permission. You could lose consciousness and die if you enter the home.

If authorities allow you to return to your home and your alarm reactivates within a 24-hour period, repeat the steps above.

Call a qualified technician to investigate for sources of CO from all fuel-burning equipment and appliances, and inspect for proper operation. If the source of the CO is determined to be a malfunctioning appliance, DO NOT operate that appliance until it has been serviced by trained personnel.

Make sure that motor vehicles are not and have not been operating in an attached or adjacent garage.

Please remember – CO alarms provide added protection from CO poisoning, but they are not a substitute for proper use and maintenance of your portable generator.

For additional CO alarm information, visit cpsc.com.

SAFETY FIRST Carbon Monoxide Awareness pgmaonline.com

PGMA • 1300 Sumner Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115 • 216.241.7333

PGMA
Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association

BE PREPARED

CARBON MONOXIDE

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EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

- Water** – At least 1 gallon per person for 3-7 days
- Food** – Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
- Flashlight & Batteries**
- Battery-powered or Hand Crank Radio** – NOAA Weather Radio
- First Aid Kit**
- Medications** – 7 day supply
- Multi-Purpose Tool**
- Sanitation & Personal Hygiene Items**
- Telephones** – fully-charged cell phone with extra battery
- Cash & Credit Cards**
- Important Documents** – Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security cards, birth certificates, all in a water-tight container
- Filled Vehicle Fuel Tanks**
- Clothing**
- Blankets & Pillows**
- Family & Emergency Contact Information**
- Pet Care Items**
- Fire Extinguisher**
- Rock Salt** – to melt ice
- Sand** – to improve traction
- Snow Shovels**
- CO Detector**
- Gasoline** – to fuel generator

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Post your emergency contact numbers in a place that is easily accessible for your entire family.

Police Emergency: 911
Police Non-Emergency: _____
Fire Dept. Emergency: 911
Fire Dept. Non-Emergency: _____
Ambulance: _____
Poison Control Center: _____
Gas Company: _____
Electric Company: _____
Water Utility: _____
Family Doctor: _____

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NUMBERS

OUT OF TOWN CONTACT

FAMILY MEETING PLACE

CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS

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- Always read and follow the portable generator Operator's Manual before operating.
- Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide. You cannot smell, see or taste CO, and it can be deadly.
- Only operate the portable generator outside, far away from windows, doors and vents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide gas accumulating and potentially being drawn towards occupied spaces.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup according to the manufacturer's instructions. Smoke alarms cannot detect carbon monoxide gas.
- DO NOT run a portable generator inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, sheds or other partially enclosed space even if using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Carbon monoxide can quickly build up and linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- ALWAYS place a portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces.
- If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while using your portable generator, shut it off and get to fresh air IMMEDIATELY. See a doctor. You may have carbon monoxide poisoning.



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS



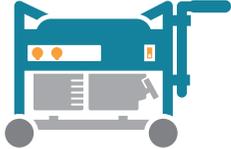
The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be similar to those caused by other illnesses such as cold, flu or food poisoning. If you suspect you are experiencing any of these symptoms due to CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately.

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Fainting
- Shortness of Breath
- Fatigue

TO PREVENT CO POISONING

- Never operate a portable generator or any other engine-powered tool in or near an enclosed or partially enclosed space.
- Install a CO alarm that meets the requirements of the current UL 2034 safety standard.
- A CO alarm is added protection, but is not a substitute for proper use and maintenance of your generator.

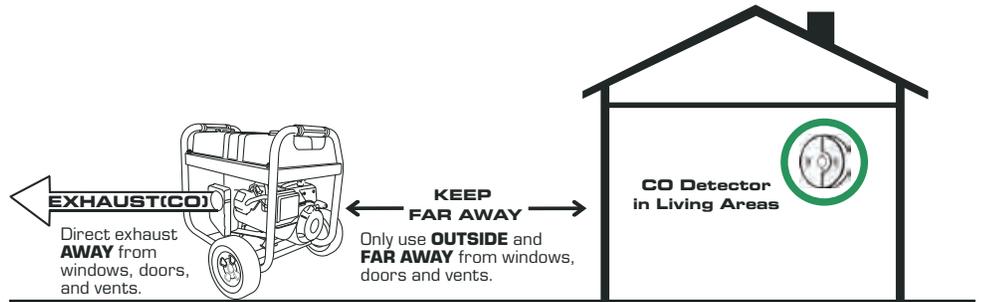
KEEP GENERATORS FAR AWAY FROM A HOUSE



CORRECT USAGE

Example location to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning

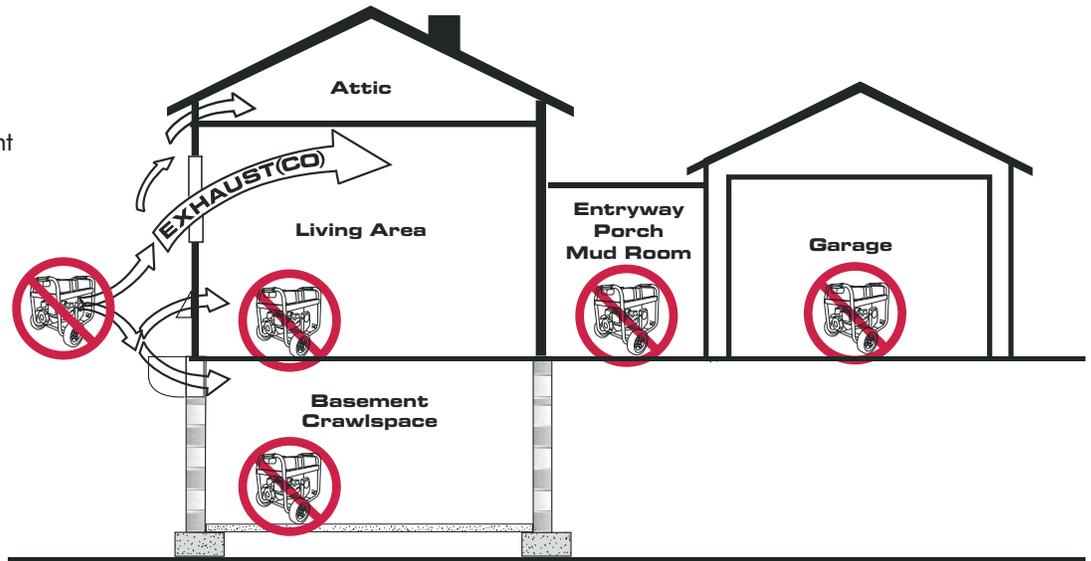
- ONLY use outside and downwind, far away from windows, doors and vents.
- Direct exhaust away from occupied spaces.



INCORRECT USAGE

Do not operate in any of the following locations:

- Near any door, window or vent
- Garage
- Basement
- Crawl Space
- Living Area
- Attic
- Entry Way
- Porch
- Mudroom



INSTALL battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery back-up according to the manufacturer's instructions.

| ⚠ DANGER | |
|---|---|
| Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell. | |
|   |  |
| <p>NEVER use inside a home or garage, EVEN IF doors and windows are open.</p> | <p>Only use OUTSIDE and far away from windows, doors and vents.</p> |
| Avoid other generator hazards. READ MANUAL BEFORE USE. | |

NEWS RELEASE

CARBON MONOXIDE

Colorless. Odorless. Deadly.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

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AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE DANGERS WHILE OPERATING PORTABLE GENERATORS

In preparation for the upcoming ice and snowstorm season, PGMA (Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association) reminds residents to be mindful of the dangers of carbon monoxide while operating portable generators.

"Portable generators are designed to thrive during ice and snow storm season, when it's more likely power outages will abruptly put families in the dark," said Joe Harding from the PGMA. "But generators can be dangerous if not operated properly."

Portable generators are powered by small engines that emit potentially harmful carbon monoxide gas. If carbon monoxide is not allowed to exhaust from the engine in a safe manner, harmful effects – even death – can occur in a matter of minutes.

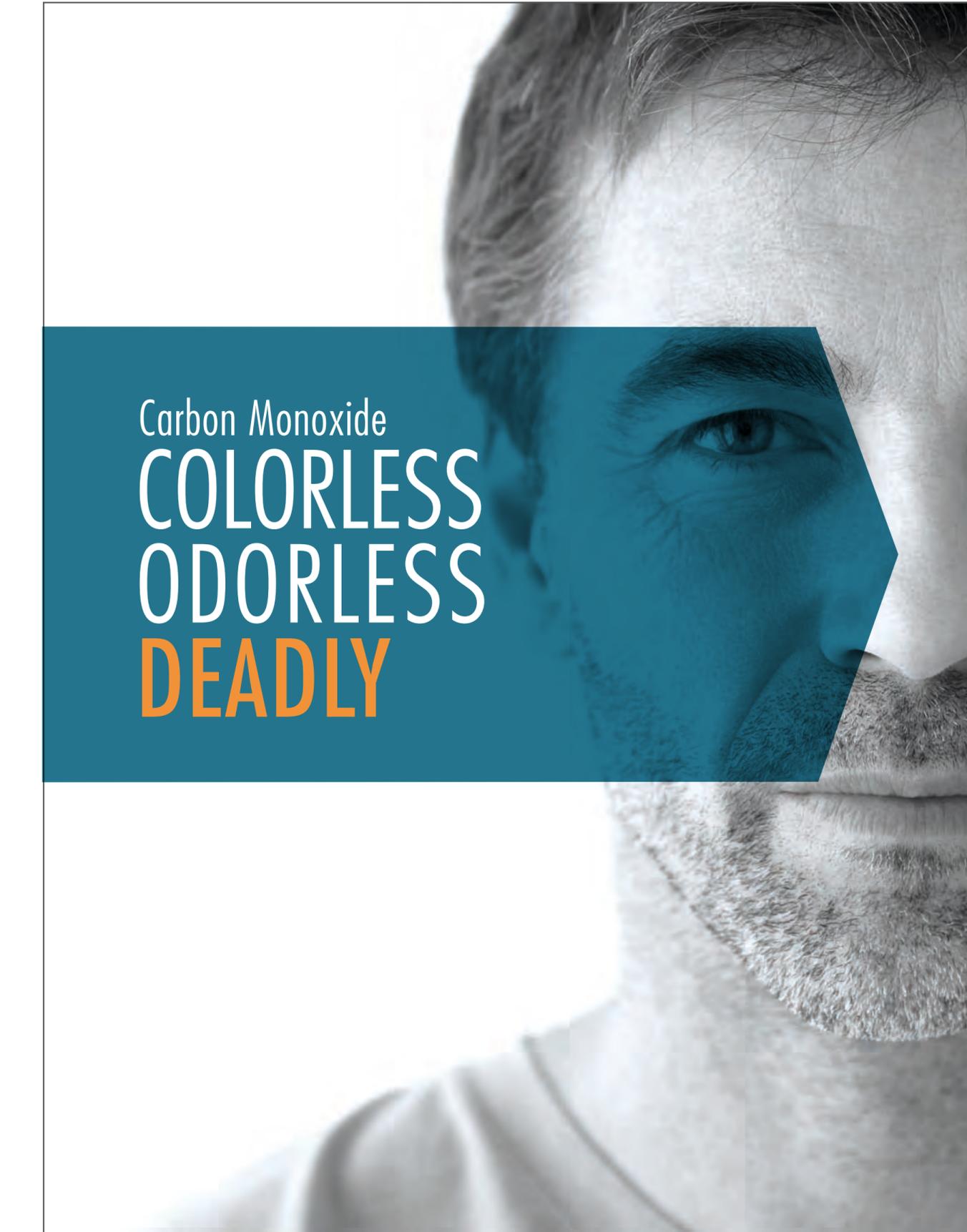
Carbon monoxide is especially dangerous because it is tasteless, colorless and odorless. Even if exhaust fumes cannot be detected, carbon monoxide could still be present.

The best way to operate a portable generator and safely control carbon monoxide gas is to read and follow the operator's manual before starting the generator.

ADDITIONAL STEPS to ensure safe operation include:

- Only operate a portable generator outside, far away from windows, doors and vents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide gas accumulating and potentially being drawn towards occupied spaces.
- 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.
- Do not run portable generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawlspaces, sheds or other partially-enclosed spaces, even if using fans or opening doors and windows. Carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these spaces and linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Always place your portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces.
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using the portable generator, you may have carbon monoxide poisoning. Get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical attention. Very high levels of CO can rapidly cause victims to lose consciousness before they can rescue themselves. DO NOT attempt to shut off the generator before moving to fresh air. Entering an enclosed space where a generator is or has been running may put you at greater risk of CO poisoning.

To learn more, visit pgmaonline.com



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