



Generator Safety

This important information is brought to you through the cooperative efforts of: North Castle Citizen Corps Council (NC4), North White Plains FD, Banksville FD, Armonk FD, Valhalla VAC, the Town of North Castle Office of Emergency Management, and the North Castle PD.

Fall 2013

October-November 2012

Superstorm Sandy created a large degree of damage to our Town, leaving approximately 98% of our residents and business without electricity. Many turned to generators for their power needs during this extended outage. Our emergency responders encountered many situations where generators were being used in an unsafe manner. Unfortunately there were a number of people who experienced symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure due to this situation, thankfully nothing of a significant nature.

Our goal is to educate you and your family regarding the safety concerns that are necessary when using generators. More frequent and intense storm activity has increased the use of both portable and installed generators. Read the product literature that was provided with your generator in order to understand the safety procedures that are specific to your model.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Please use these helpful tips when using your generators. The life you save may be your own.

Information From the National Fire Protection Association



Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- » Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- » Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- » Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- » Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- » Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.



- » Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.

www.nfpa.org/education

September is National Preparedness Month. Are you READY?

Go to READY.GOV for more information on how to prepare you and your family for emergencies.

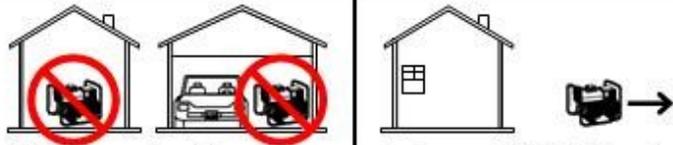
GENERATOR SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE

Information from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

⚠ DANGER

Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES.

Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell.



NEVER use inside a home or garage, EVEN IF doors and windows are open.

Only use OUTSIDE and far away from windows, doors, and vents.

Important Points To Remember:

- Maintain and prepare your generators now, before you need them.
- Ensure that you have an adequate supply of fuel.
- Determine a safe location in which to set up your generator so that the exhaust does not enter your house.
- Train members of your family in the safe operation of the generator, consistent with the manufacturer's instructions.

Carbon Monoxide Warning!

(CO, carbon monoxide, is a poisonous gas)

BE SAFE:

- ✓ Never use the generator indoors or in a garage, carport, or basement.
- ✓ Put the generator outside and away from doors, windows, and vents.
- ✓ Read product directions for other safety tips.
- ✓ Chain the generator to a tree or other fixed object to prevent theft.
- ✓ Symptoms of CO poisoning:

Headache

Confusion

Fatigue

Seizures

Dizziness

Loss of consciousness

Nausea/vomiting

Death

Get out of the house and seek medical help immediately if you or a family member have these symptoms!

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Fire Departments have specially calibrated instruments to detect the presence of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is odorless, colorless and tasteless. CO detectors are required but they have a lifespan. Check your batteries and, when needed, replace your detectors.

This information is brought to you through the cooperative efforts of:

- North White Plains Fire Department
- North Castle Citizen Corps Council
- Banksville Fire Department
- Town of North Castle Office of Emergency Management
- Armonk Fire Department
- North Castle Police Department
- Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps