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## DO NOT USE GENERATORS INDOORS

*Improper use of generators can cause poisoning and death*

### Contact:

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**Tallahassee, Fla.**—The Florida Department of Health reminds the public that using a generator indoors will result in deadly carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. In a short time, CO can build up in enclosed or even partially enclosed spaces, such as your home or garage. The risk of illness or death increases with the level of CO in the air and the amount of time exposed.

**CO is invisible and odorless, so you might not even realize you are at risk until it too late.**

To avoid sickness or death from CO poisoning:

- **NEVER use a generator indoors, including in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, and other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.** Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO build-up in the home.
- **ALWAYS** place the unit outdoors on a dry surface, away from doors, windows, vents, and air conditioning equipment that could allow CO to come indoors. Follow the instructions that come with your generator.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. The CO alarms should be certified to the requirements of the latest safety standards for CO alarms (UL 2034, IAS 6-96, or CSA 6.19.01).
- Test your CO alarms frequently and replace dead batteries.
- **REMEMBER that you cannot see or smell CO and portable generators can produce high levels of CO very quickly.**
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT DELAY.**
- **If you have a poisoning emergency, call your nearest Florida Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222. If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911 immediately.**

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov) or [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).

During severe weather and other emergencies, you can count on active alerts from the department's official social media accounts. One of the fastest ways to receive official

and accurate health-related information is to monitor [@HealthyFla](#) on Twitter and on [Facebook](#).

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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