
CARBON MONOXIDE IS KNOWN AS THE SILENT KILLER

Portable Generators Can Cause Deadly Carbon Monoxide to Build Up Quickly in Homes



State's poison control center warns residents about carbon monoxide poisoning ahead of possible power outages from stormy weather.

Last week a string of strong thunderstorms across New Jersey left some residents without power. Many relied on their portable generators until the electric companies were able to restore power to those areas.

As we head into another round of soggy and stormy weather over the next few days, the New Jersey Poison Control Center warns residents about the risk of being exposed to carbon monoxide (CO) from the exhaust fumes of fuel-powered generators.

“Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the hidden hazards that worry us here at the poison control center during and after storms,” said Bruce Ruck, managing director of the [New Jersey Poison Control Center](#) at [Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#).



Regularly Check Home CO Detectors!

Carbon monoxide is invisible.

“Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas, and people and pets are often accidentally exposed to it when fuel-powered generators are placed in unsafe places. Since carbon monoxide gives no warning, it’s important to regularly test your home carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working.”

1-800-222-1222





To prevent unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, keep running generators outdoors only. Because fuel-powered equipment produces carbon monoxide, they should never be used indoors under any circumstance.

Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can build up quickly inside areas poisoning anyone exposed to it.

Recognize the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and act quickly. Carbon monoxide

poisoning is a medical emergency.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be mistaken for symptoms of common illnesses like colds, flu or COVID-19. Symptoms may include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

If symptoms improve when you go outside, consider carbon monoxide poisoning a possibility.



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

The only way to detect carbon monoxide in your home, is to have working carbon monoxide detectors. If a carbon monoxide detector sounds its alarm, do not ignore it because it's trying to save your life. Carbon monoxide detectors don't malfunction as often as people may think. Get everyone including pets out to fresh air immediately.

“Every minute counts in situations involving carbon monoxide,” said Ruck. “Contact the poison center for personalized, medical guidance and care.”

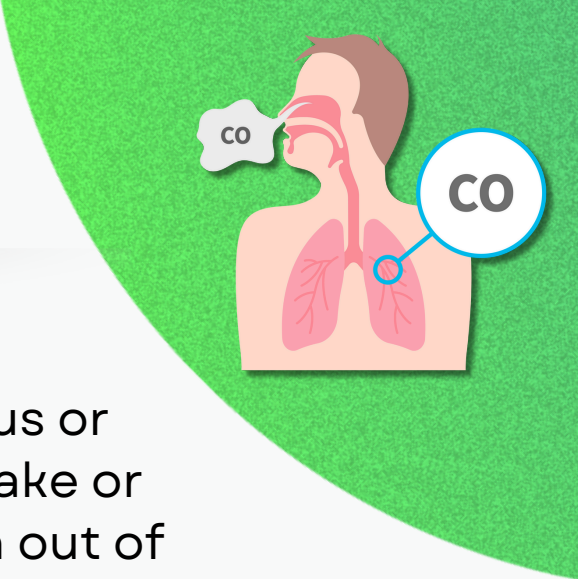
It is unsafe to idle your car in the garage even with the garage door open. If you need to charge your phone, pull your vehicle completely out of the garage with the tailpipe/exhaust facing away from the home before idling.



To reduce your risk of being exposed to carbon monoxide during storms, the New Jersey Poison Control Center offers the following safety information.



If you suspect **carbon monoxide poisoning**, get help immediately



If someone is unconscious or unresponsive (hard to wake or not breathing), get them out of the house and call 9-1-1 immediately.



Leave the house or building right away. Do not waste time opening windows. This will delay you getting out of the house and cause you to breathe in even more dangerous fumes.



Contact your local fire department or energy provider.



Call the New Jersey Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 for fast, medical advice. Do not waste time looking for information on the internet about carbon monoxide poisoning.

1-800-222-1222



Outdoor safety tips to help reduce your risk of carbon monoxide exposure during power outages

O

Gas generators should only be used outside, never indoors.

U

Keep portable generators more than 20 feet from both your home and your neighbors' homes. This includes keeping generators away from doors, windows and vents.

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D

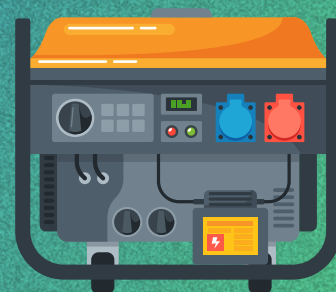
[Generator Safety Tips](#)

O

O

R

Use pressure washers, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices outdoors only. It is never safe to use them inside your home, basement, garage, carport, camper, boat cabin or tent.



1-800-222-1222



**New
Jersey
Poison
Center**

Indoor safety tips to help reduce your risk of carbon monoxide exposure during power outages



I

Carbon monoxide detectors should be on every level of your home, including near sleeping areas.

N

Check to make sure your carbon monoxide detectors are working. If detectors are old or not working properly, replace them.

D

O

Keeping a car running in a garage is extremely dangerous. Carbon monoxide can quickly build up inside the garage even with the garage door open.

O

R

Be careful with “remote start” engines which may turn on without you knowing, causing the car to idle in the garage.

1-800-222-1222



**New
Jersey
Poison
Center**



**Get Free
Medical Help**

1-800-222-1222

Medical specialists are available to provide information, answer questions, and provide emergency support 24 hours a day

Anyone can call for medical help – children, teens, and adults

NJPoisonCenter.org



New Jersey Poison Control Center is a medical resource for both the public and healthcare providers.

If you think someone has come in contact with something dangerous, contact your local poison control center immediately.

Call the NJ Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or [Chat Here](#)

If someone is not breathing, hard to wake up, or having a seizure, call 9-1-1