



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
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John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joint Information Center, (614) 799-6480

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Ohioans Urged to Use Caution With Generators

Carbon monoxide poisoning a risk

COLUMBUS (July 5, 2012) – Ohioans awaiting power restoration who are relying on generators are being urged to use caution because of an increased risk of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. A single gas-powered generator can produce as much as 100 times more poisonous Carbon Monoxide gas than a car's exhaust according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

How to generate power safely or cook when the electricity is out:

- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage.
- Operate generators outdoors as far away from your house as possible. [The National Institute of Standards and Technology](http://www.nist.gov) reports that even 15 feet away may still be dangerous because the CO fumes can enter the home through windows, doors or vents. Tests are still being conducted to find a safe operating distance.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running or hot.
- Install CO detectors inside the home near all the sleeping areas.
- Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill indoors. Using a grill indoors will cause a build-up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper unless you use it inside a vented fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal — red, gray, black, or white — gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. Using a gas camp stove indoors can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.

Chronology

- July 4: Federal Government Grants Request for Replacement Food Assistance
- July 3: Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor and Ohio Department of Aging Director ask Ohio's colleges and universities to urge their students to help those affected by the outages and heat.
- July 2: FEMA delivers initial water supplies to counties and other local governments.
- July 1: Another round of severe storms move across Ohio wiping out power to more residents.
- July 1: Members of Ohio National Guard deploy to help check on Ohioans who may be at risk as a result of power outages and extreme heat.
- June 30: Gov. Kasich's request for federal assistance is approved.
- June 30: Gov. Kasich spoke to the President and requested federal assistance to respond to the storm. He also spoke with utility company CEOs and local elected officials to make state resources available to expedite recovery activities.

- June 30: Gov. Kasich declared an emergency for the entire state of Ohio so state agencies can assist local government response and recovery efforts. The National Guard was activated to help deliver needed supplies and conduct door-to-door checks in select areas to identify vulnerable Ohioans threatened by the severe heat.
- June 29: Ohio's Emergency Operations Center in Columbus was activated to coordinate state and local storm recovery efforts. The state contacted Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to let them know federal assistance may be needed.
- June 29: Severe storms and high winds during evening rush hour knocked out power for approximately one million homes and businesses across two-thirds of the state.

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For additional information on generator safety please visit: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov or the Federal Emergency Management Agency website: www.fema.gov/areyouready/heat.shtm, or the Ohio Department of Health website: www.odh.ohio.gov.