



STATE OF OHIO
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MEDIA RELEASE
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STATE URGES SAFETY WHEN USING GENERATORS

Columbus, OH – As more than 250,000 electricity customers await power restoration following Superstorm Sandy, many Ohioans will turn to generator power to heat homes and run appliances. While a generator can provide an alternative source of power when the electricity goes out, it can also become a dangerous source of carbon monoxide and pose threats near high-water areas. The state of Ohio urges residents to practice caution when using power generators.

“Many Ohioans purchased generators following the storms and power outages and storms this summer,” said Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of Ohio EMA. “As they use those generators now to keep warm, or maybe they’re using them for the first time, it’s important to remember just how dangerous the carbon monoxide can be to you and your family.”

The Ohio Department of Health provides the following information on power generators and generator safety:

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.

- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage. Opening the garage door does not make it safe.
- Never use a generator in a flooded area.
- Operate generators outdoors as far away from your house as possible. The National Institute of Standards and Technology 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.

For additional information on generator safety and to view a video that demonstrates the dangers of carbon monoxide, visit: <http://bit.ly/GeneratorSafetyOH>.

For residents without power, please contact your local 211 for information and lists of resources. Call 911 in an emergency. Information is also available online at www.ema.ohio.gov. Follow along on Twitter with #OHwx

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