

Preventing Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

Hurricanes, storms, blizzards, and other natural disasters often bring power outages, leading many people to use generators and other fuel-burning devices. These can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless and odorless gas that is poisonous and can be deadly. Being aware of the risks and knowing how to prevent CO poisoning can save lives.

Prevention Tips



Use Generators Safely

- Operate generators outdoors, at least 20 feet away from any home or dwelling. This also includes any windows, doors, and vents.
- NEVER use a generator inside your home, basement, garage, or covered patio, even if windows and doors are open.



Install and Maintain CO Detectors

- Install CO detectors near sleeping areas, the kitchen, and garage.
- Regularly test your devices and ensure you have working batteries.



Use Fuel-Burning Devices Safely

- Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills, stoves, gas-powered heaters, etc., in an enclosed space without proper ventilation.
- Do not use grills or other fuel-burning devices to cook in your home.
- Never use gas ovens or ranges to heat your home.
- Do not keep your car running in your garage, even with the door open. Keep running vehicles at least 20 feet away from your house.

Symptoms of CO Poisoning

- ✓ Unusual tiredness
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Nausea and/or vomiting
- ✓ Dizziness
- ✓ Confusion or bizarre behavior
- ✓ Shortness of breath and chest pain
- ✓ Passing out or fainting

For More Information and Support

- Call the Poison Help line at **1-800-222-1222**.

What to do if You Suspect CO Poisoning

1. Move to Fresh Air

Immediately move yourself and anyone else in the home to fresh air outside.

2. Call 911

Call 911 and seek medical attention immediately if the person is unconscious, seizing, or not breathing.

3. Call the Poison Help Line

Call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 to be connected to your local poison center for further assistance. Poison Centers are available 24/7 to provide expert guidance.



Be prepared. Save the Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) to your phone today.