



# Hooksett Fire-Rescue Department

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15 Legends Drive, Hooksett NH 03106

## Public Service Announcement

### Generator Safety and Carbon Monoxide Dangers

Carbon Monoxide, Electrical Hazards, and Fire Hazards of using portable generators around the home:

#### **Carbon Monoxide:**

It is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas.

NEVER run a generator inside homes, garages, sheds, or similar areas. CO can build up quickly to deadly levels and remain for hours after the generator is shut off.

READ and follow the instructions that come with your generator, locating the generator and exhaust away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to travel indoors

LEAVE the house immediately to fresh air if you become sick, dizzy, weak, nauseous, confused, and/or get a headache while using a generator. CO from generators can KILL you rapidly.

CALL 911 or get to an emergency room immediately

HOOKSETT Fire-Rescue Department recommends installing CO alarms on every floor of the home and sleeping areas

#### **Electrical Hazards:**

SHOCK and electrocution are dangers of running a generator, especially in wet conditions.

Protect the generator from moisture, but do not operate indoors or in garages, even with the doors open.

USE extension cords that are designed for outdoor use and rated for the circuit breaker size being used on the generator. Inspect the cords for cuts or tears and that the plug has three prongs (a hot, neutral and ground). Do not place cords where they can be pinched or crushed.

NEVER try to energize a house by plugging the generator into an outlet, known as "backfeeding." This can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors

#### **Fire Hazards:**

NEVER store fuel in your home. Flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in approved containers. Do not store near fuel-burning appliances, such as a propane gas water heater.

NEVER refuel your generator while it is running, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilling in the hot engine parts can ignite causing burns or a fire.