

## GENERATOR SAFETY

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks of Carbon Monoxide.

- 1 Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.
- 2 Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- 3 Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- 4 Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- 5 Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- 6 Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

## JUST REMEMBER

- When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the Canadian Electrical Code and all applicable provincial and local electrical codes.

### FACT

CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.

*Reference: National Fire Protection Association*

For more fire safety information, go to [www.townofriverview.ca](http://www.townofriverview.ca)



# CARBON MONOXIDE Safety



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## CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment which burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- 1 CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- 2 Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- 3 Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 4 If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- 5 If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call 911 for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- 6 If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- 7 During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- 8 A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- 9 Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO – only use outside

## HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.



### FACT

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.