

GENERATE SAFETY

Before use, learn about the potential **dangers** associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless **poisonous gas** that is often called the “**silent killer**” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate **power AND safety** when using a generator.

BY THE NUMBERS

AFRICAN AMERICANS accounted for **23%** of fatalities, which is nearly **DOUBLE** their proportion of the U.S. population.

Storms account for many of the fatalities associated with generator use, with **ICE/SNOW** storms are accounting for **46%**. **HURRICANES** accounted for **29%**.

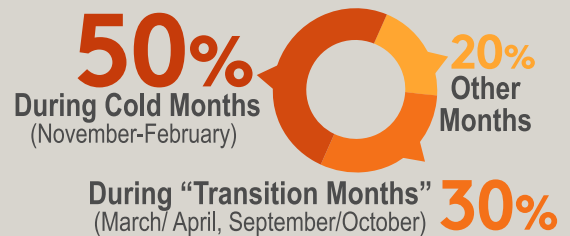
67% of the fatalities occurred when a generator was placed in the living area or **BASEMENT** of the home.

26% of fatalities occurred when a generator was used inside an attached **GARAGE** or shed.

BETWEEN
1992
AND
2012

NEARLY 80%
OF THE
931 CO DEATHS
WERE ASSOCIATED WITH
GENERATORS.

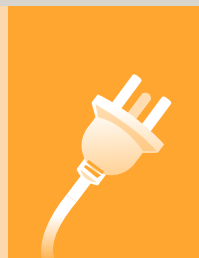
Generator-Related CO Deaths:



TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS



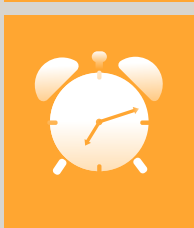
NEVER operate a generator **INSIDE** your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including **GARAGES**.



Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)**.



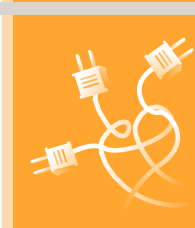
Install battery-operated **CO ALARMS** or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.



A generator is a **TEMPORARY** power source and should **NEVER** be used as a permanent solution.



Use only extension cords that have a **THREE-PRONGED** plug and are rated for the intended load.



Do **NOT** **OVERLOAD** the generator.



NEVER connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a **TRANSFER SWITCH**. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.



Your home generator should be installed by a **QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN** and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least **20 FEET** from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.

ESFi For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit www.esfi.org

*Data from “Incidents, Deaths, and In-Depth Investigations Associated with Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide from Engine-Driven Generators and Other Engine-Driven Tools, 1999–2012”; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, August 2013.