Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention

When power outages occur after severe weather (such as winter storms, hurricanes, or tornadoes), using alternative sources of power can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in a home and poison the people and animals inside.

How to Recognize CO Poisoning

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

CO Poisoning Prevention Tips

- Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home
- Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage
- Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure unless the equipment is professionally installed and vented; keep vents and flues free of debris
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area
- If conditions are too hot or too cold, seek shelter with friends or at a community shelter
- If CO poisoning is suspected, consult a healthcare professional right away

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