

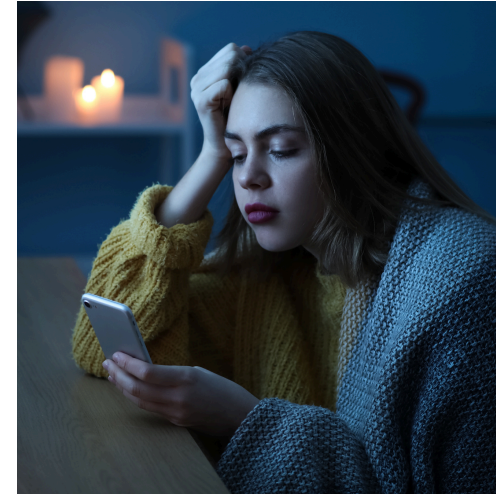
# How I Stay Safe with Portable Generators that Use Fuel



**RWJBarnabas**  
HEALTH

Children's  
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Hospital





If the electricity stops working during storms, I might need to use a portable generator.

A portable generator makes electricity by using fuel like gas, which provides power when the electricity goes out.

Portable generators are very helpful if they are used correctly. They can help keep important things working like lights and refrigerators.



A portable generator can become dangerous when it releases a dangerous gas called carbon monoxide (CO).

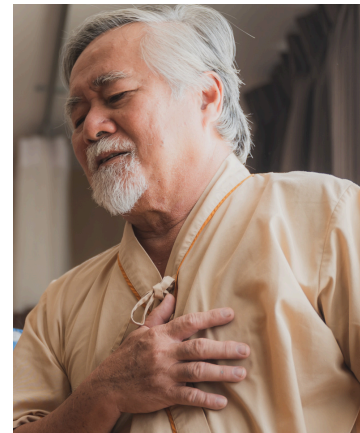
This can happen when a portable generator is used in an enclosed area or an area that has poor ventilation. Some types of enclosed areas include houses, apartments, garages, basements, sheds, and storage areas.

This can cause the gas to build up quickly. I can't see, smell, or taste CO, and it can make people and pets very sick. It can even be deadly.



To stay safe, portable generators should only be used outside, never inside.

Portable generators need to be at least 20 feet away from my house, apartment, or a building, and also away from doors, windows, and vents.



It is important that I know the most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms can include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

If I feel better when I go outside, I might have CO poisoning.



To prevent CO poisoning, I need to make sure that carbon monoxide detectors are in my apartment or on every level of my home, especially near sleeping areas.

If the carbon monoxide detector alarm sounds, I quickly get everyone, including pets, outside to get fresh air. Then I should call my local fire department or energy provider.

If someone is not breathing or hard to wake, I need to call 911 immediately.



If I have questions, concerns, or an emergency related to carbon monoxide poisoning, I can call the New Jersey Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 to get the medical help I need.



[NJPoisonCenter.org](http://NJPoisonCenter.org)

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[RWJBH.org/CSH](http://RWJBH.org/CSH)

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This tool was made by the New Jersey Poison Control Center and Children's Specialized Hospital to give important safety information and prevent injuries.

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Call 1-800-222-1222

Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.  
Translators are available on the language line.



Text at 973-339-0702



Live Chat at [www.njpies.org/online-chat/](http://www.njpies.org/online-chat/)