



Fast Facts about Carbon Monoxide Alarms



OFTEN CALLED THE INVISIBLE KILLER, carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels —gasoline, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane — burn incompletely. Equipment and vehicles powered by internal combustion engines are a common source of carbon monoxide. Vehicles running in an attached garage or generators running inside a home or attached garage, can quickly produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

The dangers of CO depend on a number of variables, including the person's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.

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.

Low level CO poisoning can often be confused with **flu symptoms**, food poisoning, and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, lightheadedness or headaches. When extremely high CO levels are present, confusion, incapacitation and loss of consciousness can occur within minutes.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which CO was found, or an average of nine calls per hour. According to the NFPA, this represents an **increase of 96 percent** from 40,900 reported in 2003.

CO incidents are more common **during the colder months**. During the period 2006 to 2010 half of CO incidents reported to local fire departments across the U.S. occurred between the months of November and February, peaking in December.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 1999–2010, an average of 430 people per year were killed by unintentional CO poisoning from a variety of consumer products and motor vehicles.

Interconnected CO alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. A licensed electrician can install hard-wired interconnected CO alarms, or homeowners can install wireless alarms, plug-in alarms, or battery operated alarms.

— Keeping Your Community Safe with Carbon Monoxide Alarms —

NFPA • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 • www.nfpa.org/education

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 that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- 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.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 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.
- 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 for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- 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.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- 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.

FACTS

- ! 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.
- ! In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



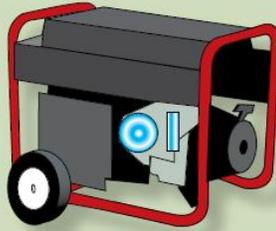
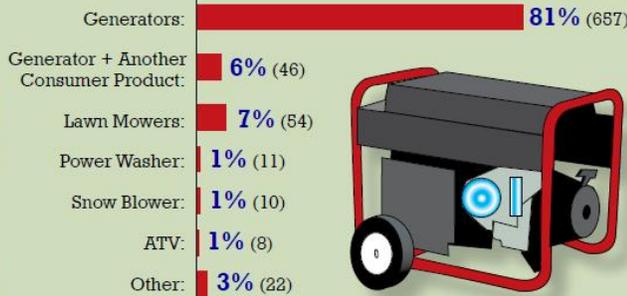
PORTABLE GENERATOR-RELATED CARBON MONOXIDE DEATHS

You don't run your car indoors; don't run your generator inside, either.

Most deaths occur in homes during cold months. Data Years: 2004-2013

Deaths Related to Engine-Driven Tools

Total Number of Deaths: **808**



Where the Generator Was When Deaths Occurred in Fixed Structure Homes

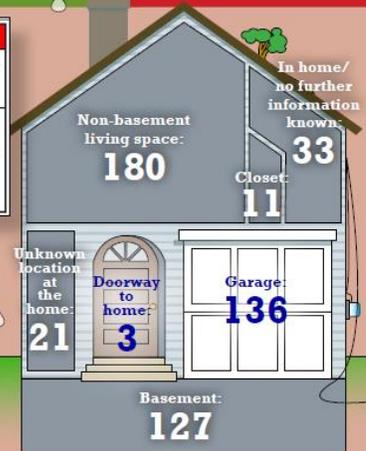
Total Number of Deaths: **526**

⚠ DANGER

Using a generator indoors **CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES.** Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell.

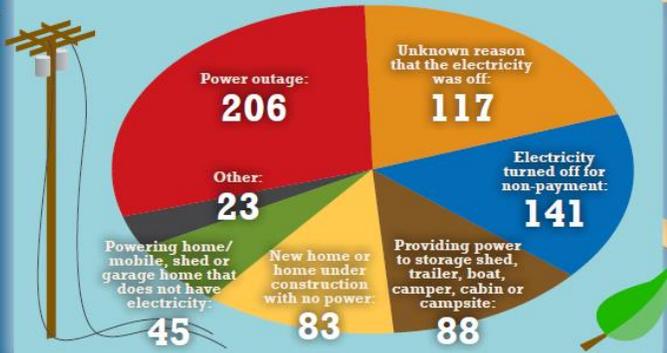
NEVER use inside a home or garage, **EVEN IF** doors and windows are open.

Only use **OUTSIDE** and far away from windows, doors, and vents.

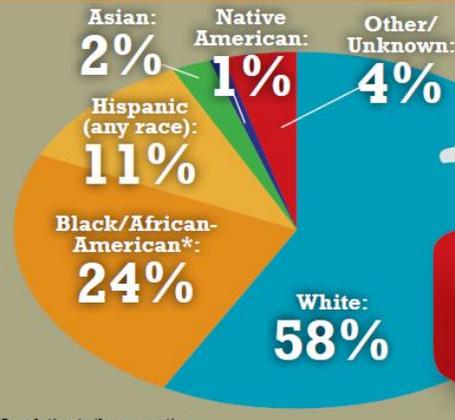


How the Generator Was Used When the Deaths Occurred

Total Deaths: **703**



Generator-Related, Non-Fire CO Deaths by Race



*In relation to the proportion of the general population, this is nearly double.

Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

- Run portable generators away from the house, garage or any enclosed space.
- Keep generators at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents.*
- Install a battery-operated or battery-backup CO detector in the hallway outside bedrooms.
- NEVER ignore a beeping CO alarm. Go outside and call 911 if the alarm sounds.

* Minimum distance recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



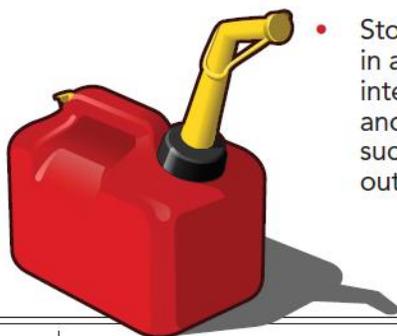
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Generator Safety

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.

- 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.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- 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.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.



- 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 National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

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



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7 Highly Effective Portable Heater Safety Habits

1 Keep all sides of the heater at least 3 feet from beds, clothes, curtains, papers, sofas and other items that can catch fire.

2 Never run the heater's cord under rugs or carpeting and never power the heater with an extension cord or power strip.

7 Check SaferProducts.gov to see if your electric heater has been recalled.

3 Make sure the heater is not near water. NEVER touch it if you are wet.

6 If the heater's cord or plug is HOT, disconnect the heater and contact an authorized repair person. If any part of the outlet is hot, contact a certified electrician.

3'
4 Place the heater on a stable, level surface, located where it will not be knocked over.

5 Never leave the heater operating while unattended or while you are sleeping.



Your links to all official City Thomasville Social Media sources

<http://www.thomasville-nc.gov/services/thomasville-social-media-outlets>

The City maintains a variety of Social Media outlets that are dedicated to different departments and user groups. This page gives you access to all of the official outlets maintained by city staff including the City Facebook page, Parks and Recreation Facebook page, Emergency Management Facebook Page, Police Department Twitter page, and Emergency Management Twitter page.

We also have an emergency push notification system called Nixle. This system allows you to sign-up for notifications- including weather information from the National Weather Service, Emergency road closures or other emergency notifications, along with other community information. Nixle Alerts:

Receive alerts from your local agencies Sign Up at <https://local.nixle.com/register/> ...or text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts

Sign Up : Nixle

You will receive a single opt in welcome message. Reply YES to continue to receive SMS text messages. You may opt out at any point by sending STOP to 888777 . Send HELP to 888777 for information.

For additional Fire & Life Safety Information Contact: Thomasville FD Fire & Life Safety Division (336)475-5545

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