

Public Education



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WA State Emergency Management Division
www.emd.wa.gov

Severe Weather Preparedness

Governor Urges State Residents to Prepare Now for Winter Storms



ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Clean debris out of the storm drain in front of your home.
- Check in on elderly neighbors.
- Store food that does not need to be heated or refrigerated.

To Ponder...

You'll never
regret not
preparing!

Carbon Monoxide Danger



You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous.

However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

Symptoms of CO poisoning:

Severe headaches, dizziness, mental confusion, nausea, fainting.

Actions to take:

Get fresh air immediately.

Go to the emergency room and tell the doctor you suspect CO poisoning.

Generator Safety



A common type of generator used during power outages.

Generator Safety

Power outages can cause a number of safety concerns, especially as residents seek heat from alternatives sources.

A generator can be an effective energy source during a power outage, but using it safely requires your attention. Always read the directions that come with the device.

NEVER use a portable generator indoors.

Tips:

- Place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Determine the amount of power you will need. Light bulb wattage indicates the power needed. Appliance and equipment labels indicate their power requirements. If you can't determine the amount of power you will need, ask an electrician.
- **Never** try to power your house by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back feeding". *It can lead to the electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.*

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