

MEDIA RELEASE
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SUFFOLK, VA (January 30, 2010) The City of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department offers these safety tips to residents when using generators or space heaters:

Generator Safety

- Always read the label on your generator and the owner's manual. Follow all instructions.
- Generators make an invisible, odorless gas called carbon monoxide, or CO, that can kill you. To avoid CO poisoning, operate generators outdoors only in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from home air intakes, and protected from direct exposure to rain.
- Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Install CO alarms with battery backup in your home's sleeping areas.
- Get to fresh air immediately if you start to feel sick, weak or dizzy.
- Never use a portable generator in any enclosed or partially enclosed space. Windows and doors do not provide enough ventilation.
- Do not locate a portable generator outside near windows or doors.

Space Heater Safety

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year.
- Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. If you use one, use only the recommended fuel. Always refuel outdoors safely away from your home.
- Allow your heater to cool before refueling. Kerosene has a low flash point and might cause a fire if it comes into contact with a hot surface.
- Space heaters need room. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from the heater. Never set the heater on a chair or table. It should sit only on an uncarpeted floor.
- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the heater if the heater falls over.

- Keep an eye on your heater at all times while it is running. Shut it off before you go to bed or when you leave the house. Never run a portable heater longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- Carefully follow manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.

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