Portable Generator Safety

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

- From 1999 to 2010, nearly 600 generator-related carbon monoxide (CO) deaths have been reported to the CPSC.

- In recent years, an annual average of 81 deaths have been caused by CO poisoning from generator use. The majority of the deaths occurred as a result of using a generator inside a home's living space, in the basement or in the garage.

- One generator produces as much CO as hundreds of cars. CO from a generator is deadly and can incapacitate and kill you within minutes.

Safety tips when using portable generators:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, vents, and other building openings to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home.

- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following the manufacturer's instructions.

U.S. Fire Administration
For information and resources on this subject, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus