Utility Tips

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Safety

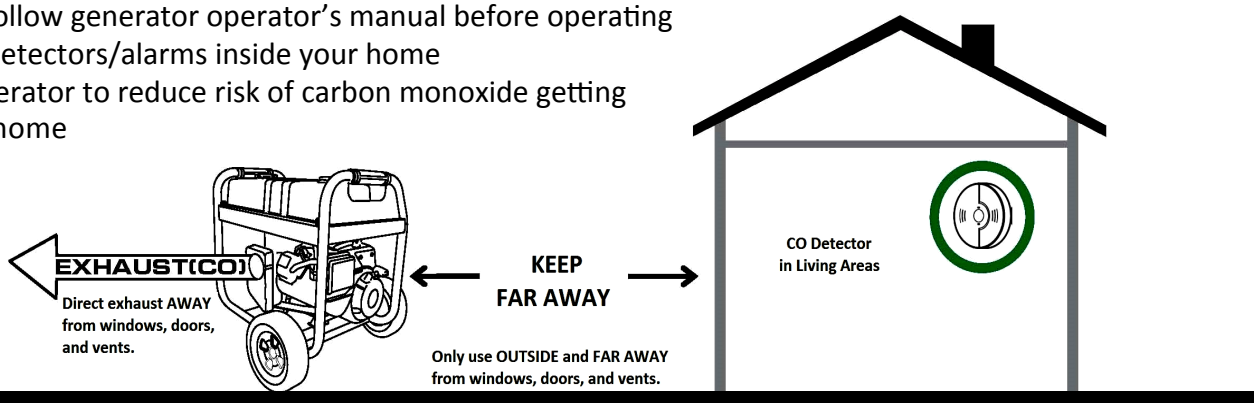
Portable Generator - Carbon Monoxide Safety

Generator engine exhaust contains VERY HIGH LEVELS of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poison gas. You CANNOT SEE, SMELL, OR TASTE carbon monoxide, but it COULD KILL you in minutes.

DO!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISON-RELATED ILLNESS AND DEATH

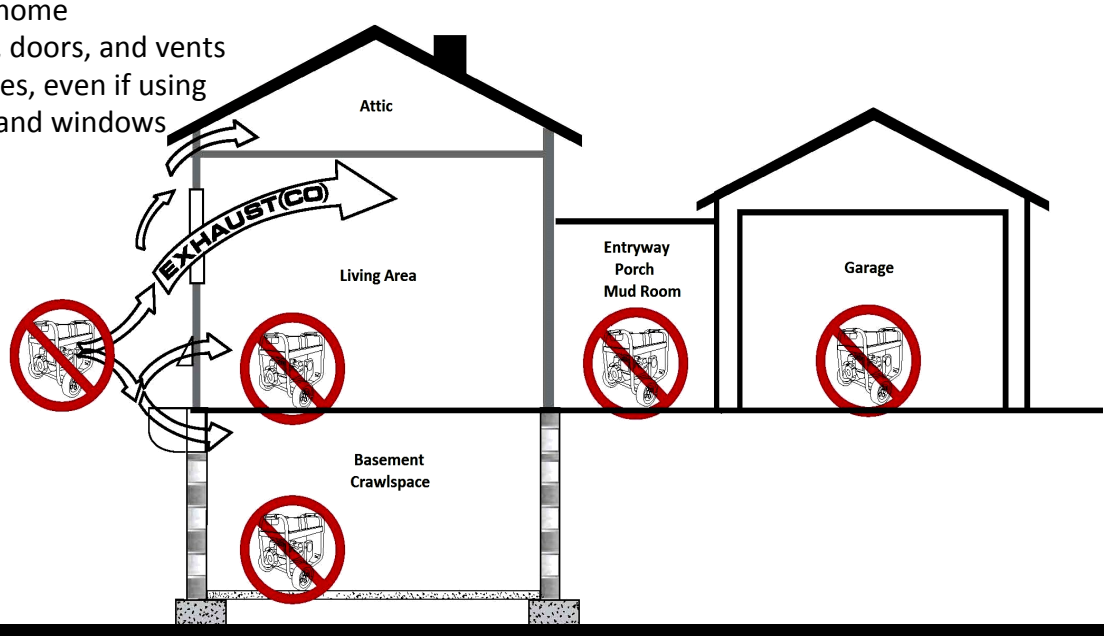
- Read and follow generator operator's manual before operating
- Install CO detectors/alarms inside your home
- Locate generator to reduce risk of carbon monoxide getting inside the home



DO NOT!

DO NOT OPERATE GENERATOR IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Anywhere inside your home
- Outside near windows, doors, and vents
- Partially-enclosed spaces, even if using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation



KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Headache - Shortness of Breath - Fainting - Nausea - Dizziness - Weakness

Symptoms of low level CO poisoning can be similar to those caused by other illnesses such as a cold, flu, or food poisoning. If you experience any of these symptoms, you may have carbon monoxide poisoning. Get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical attention. High levels of CO can rapidly cause victims to lose consciousness before they can obtain fresh air and call for help. DO NOT attempt to shut off the generator before moving to fresh air. Entering an enclosed space where a generator is or has been running may put you at greater risk of CO poisoning. Information provided by: naruc.org