

# GENERATE SAFETY

Before use, learn about the potential **dangers** associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless **poisonous gas** that is often called the “**silent killer**” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate **power AND safety** when using a generator.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**AFRICAN AMERICANS** accounted for **23%** of fatalities, which is nearly **DOUBLE** their proportion of the U.S. population.

Storms account for many of the fatalities associated with generator use, with **ICE/SNOW** storms are accounting for **46%**. **HURRICANES** accounted for **29%**.

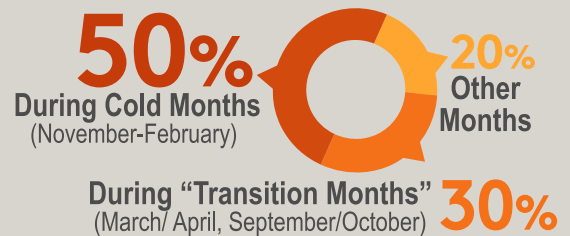
**67%** of the fatalities occurred when a generator was placed in the living area or **BASEMENT** of the home.

**26%** of fatalities occurred when a generator was used inside an attached **GARAGE** or shed.

BETWEEN  
**1992**  
AND  
**2012**

**NEARLY 80%**  
OF THE  
**931 CO DEATHS**  
WERE ASSOCIATED WITH  
**GENERATORS.**

Generator-Related CO Deaths:



## TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<p><b>NEVER</b> operate a generator <b>INSIDE</b> your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including <b>GARAGES</b>.</p>		<p>Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (<b>GFCI</b>).</p>		<p>Install battery-operated <b>CO ALARMS</b> or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.</p>
	<p>A generator is a <b>TEMPORARY</b> power source and should <b>NEVER</b> be used as a permanent solution.</p>		<p>Use only extension cords that have a <b>THREE-PRONGED</b> plug and are rated for the intended load.</p>		<p>Do <b>NOT OVERLOAD</b> the generator.</p>
	<p><b>NEVER</b> connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a <b>TRANSFER SWITCH</b>. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.</p>		<p>Your home generator should be installed by a <b>QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN</b> and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.</p>		<p>The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least <b>20 FEET</b> from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.</p>

ESFi For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

\*Data from “Incidents, Deaths, and In-Depth Investigations Associated with Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide from Engine-Driven Generators and Other Engine-Driven Tools, 1999–2012”; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, August 2013.