



## December 18 Carbon monoxide safety

# MESH FLU WATCH

## Threat Assessment

During the winter season, the use of generators and different forms of engines are frequent due to the inclement weather possibilities and the need for continuing operations. While the use of these alternate energy sources is normal, the carbon monoxide that is produced from it can be harmful. If operated in an enclosed area, carbon monoxide can reach hazardous and potentially lethal amounts, so always be sure to keep the energy source in an open, ventilated area. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can become lethal if no safety procedures or equipment is properly used. It can be found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces.

CO gas can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it. Common symptoms for CO can include but not limited to headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you. People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms.

(CDC)

### Action Steps:

1. Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent. When using a generator, use a battery-powered or battery backup CO detector in your home.
2. Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.
3. Never run your car or truck inside a garage that is attached to a house even with the garage door open. Always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car or truck inside. (CDC)

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