



# LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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## Portable Generators

### Generator Facts:

According to a 2013 Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) report, portable generators were involved in the majority of carbon monoxide deaths involving engine-driven tools from 1999-2012.

The report founds that portable generators were linked to more than 85 percent of non-fire CO deaths associated with engine-driven tools, or 800 out of 931 deaths, during that 14-year period.

The CPSC report also found that African Americans died at nearly twice their proportion of the population at a rate of 23% as a result of these non-fire CO deaths.

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

### Safety Tips

- Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.



- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never

refuel a generator while it is running.

- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

### Always Remember

- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows, and vent openings.
- When it comes to using a portable generator, always read the manufacturer's recommendations.

### National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Portable-generators>

**Work whatever tools you may have at your command and better tools will be found as you go along.— Napoleon Hill**

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

[valdostafire@valdostacity.com](mailto:valdostafire@valdostacity.com)

### Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."



Answers to last month's wuzzles are double agent and down in the dumps.

### Fire Safety Quiz

- The more watts on a generator, the more items that can be powered.
  - True
  - False
- The continuous watts produced to keep items running is known as.
  - Starting watts
  - End watts
  - Fast watts
  - Running watts

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. C.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief