

Facts About Windstorms

- ☂ Power pole and line damage cause widespread power outages.
- ☂ Improper use of generators and propane/charcoal grills cause carbon monoxide poisoning and is a leading cause in windstorm-related illness and fatalities.
- ☂ Falling trees and blowing debris can cause severe damage to buildings and vehicles and may also cause injuries and fatalities.
- ☂ Office buildings are generally structurally sound, but light metal building and structures such as bus stop shelters, where people might seek shelter, are vulnerable and could collapse, resulting in significant injuries and fatalities.
- ☂ Garage doors are the weakest link in the outer structure of a house. Failure at this point has a domino effect.
- ☂ Exterior load-bearing walls of buildings can fail resulting in the collapse of the roof. Failure of roof cover and structures can lead to additional damage and entry of wind and rain into the house.
- ☂ Weathered, loose window frames are exceptionally vulnerable during severe windstorms. Shattered windows can cause injuries and lead to extensive wind and water damage.

Basic Disaster Supply Kit (3-day minimum)

- One gallon of water per person per day, bleach for purifying.
- Non-perishable food for each person per day.
- Prescription medications.
- Over the counter medicines and first aid supplies.
- Flashlights and extra batteries, light sticks, battery-operated lanterns.
- Toiletries (including toilet paper, personal hygiene supplies, feminine supplies, etc.).
- Important documents (wills, insurance papers, birth certificates, etc.).
- Money, including coins (ATM machines may not work and money may be depleted quickly).
- Multi-purpose tools; garbage and zip lock bags.
- NOAA Weather radio (battery/crank)/extra batteries.
- Special needs (elderly, baby, pets).
- Extra clothes, shoes, blankets.
- Corded phone and cell phone with car charger.
- Extra supply of gas for your vehicle and generator.

Additional Information:

- *Washington State Emergency Management:*
www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division
- *Federal Emergency Management Agency:*
www.ready.gov/severe-weather
- *National Weather Service:*
www.weather.gov/safety
- *Take Winter by Storm:*
www.takewinterbystorm.org
- *School Closures & Notifications:*
www.k12.wa.us



www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division



- **Windstorms**
- **Power Outages**
- **Generator Use**
- **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

**Information to help you prepare for windstorms and power outages.
By taking action now, you can prevent stress and save lives.**

Easy-to-do life saving activities:

- Post non-emergency numbers for power and utility companies; fire and police departments too.
- Teach your family how to use your phones (*corded, cordless, cell*).
- Register life-sustaining and medical equipment with your utility company.
- Check the battery for your electric garage door opener; know how to open it without power.
- Prepare Disaster Supply Kits (*see back page*): Some items you may already have around the house. Place them in a container and put them in an accessible area (*inside your house by a main entrance/exit doorway or just outside your house or garage*).
- Prepare out-of-area contact cards; give one to each of your family members and loved ones.
- Discuss your emergency plans - where will you meet, where will you go if you have to leave your home - relative, friend, hotel. Who will pick up the kids, check on other family members, and take care of your pets.

Power Outages

During a Power Outage:

- Turn off lights and electrical appliances except for the refrigerator and freezer. Leave one light on so you will know when the power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep food cold/frozen for up to two days. Conserve water, especially if you use well water.
- Unplug computers and other sensitive equipment to protect them from possible surges when the power is restored. Wait at least 15 minutes after the power is restored before turning on other appliances.
- Shut off the gas/propane **only** if you smell gas (usually smells like rotten eggs), hear a hissing sound, or the meter dials are spinning more rapidly than normal.
- Listen to your NOAA weather radio for information and instructions. *Messages will include evacuation instructions, location of emergency shelters, medical aid stations, extent of damage, and other information.*

After the Storm Stops:

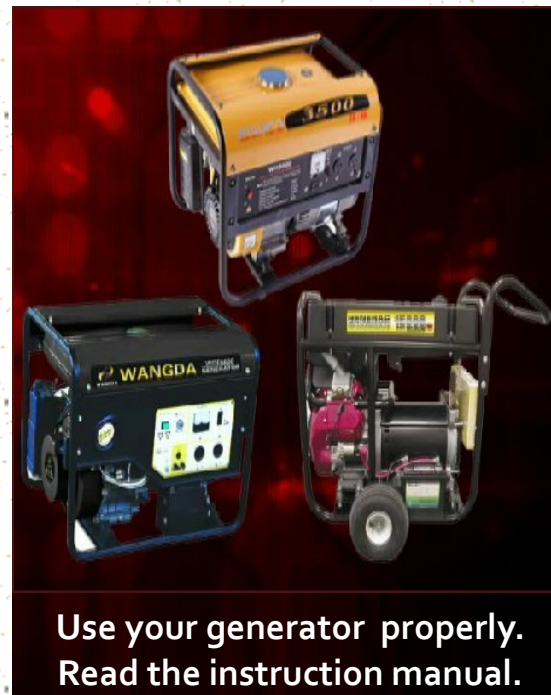
- Check yourself and those around you for injuries. Call 9-1-1 only to report a life threatening emergency. *Note: Have a corded telephone available, cordless phones will not work when the power is out and your cell phone may not get through.*
- Try to make contact with your out-of-area phone contact, but do not make local telephone calls.
- Evaluate building damage and determine if evacuation is necessary. *It may be safer and warmer inside the building. If you must evacuate **do not** re-enter until declared safe by authorities.*
- Do not use open flames (matches, candles); they can cause fires.
- Provide assistance to your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
- Continue to listen to your NOAA weather radio for information and instructions.



Generator Safety

Use a Generator Safely:

- If you plan to use a generator, install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home.
- Determine the amount of power you will need to operate items that you plan to plug into the generator.
- Place the generator **away** from windows, doors and vent that could allow CO to come indoors.
- **Never** use a portable generator indoors, in a garage, carport, basement, crawl space or other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas. Doing so may cause carbon monoxide poisoning: sick, dizzy, weak.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cords that are rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- **Never** try to power the entire house by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. This can cause 'back feeding' and can lead to electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same transformer. The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power switch transfer.



Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen or smelled and can kill a person in minutes. It is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned.

Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO caused by appliances that are not used properly or that are malfunctioning. It can build up so quickly that victims are overcome before they can get help. Once inhaled it can cause permanent brain damage, chest pains, or heart attacks in people with heart disease.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Confusion
- Nausea

If you suspect someone has CO poisoning move them to fresh air immediately. Then take them to an emergency room and tell them that you suspect CO poisoning.

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Install CO warning devices; they may provide some protection.
- Make sure that chimneys and flues are in good condition and are not blocked.
- **Heating:** Never try to heat your living space (*house, mobile home, tent, camper, van, truck, or garage*) with a gas oven, propane/gas grill, or hibachi. Do not use charcoal inside - even in your fireplace.
- **Cooking:** Never use a gas/propane cooking grill or hibachi to cook inside your home.
- **Sleeping:** Never sleep in a room while using an unvented gas or kerosene heater.
- **Vehicles:** Never idle a car in a garage, even when the garage door is open.
- **Equipment:** Never use gasoline powered equipment indoors.

Use both a carbon monoxide detector and a smoke alarm.

