



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Division of Emergency Management
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Pasco County reminds residents to use generators safely

~~ Follow these tips to prevent hazards when using electric generators~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- Pasco County [Building Construction Services Department](#) is reminding residents to use portable generators with caution. While the use of electric generators can make your recovery from a storm more comfortable, they can result in injury or death if not used properly.

Follow these tips to ensure the safe operation of your generator during any power outage:

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. NEVER use them in homes, garages, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Install & test battery-operated or battery-backup carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

To avoid a potentially fatal electric shock:

- Keep the generator dry and on a dry surface in an open area.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is free of cuts or tears and has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet which can cause electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.

To avoid a fire hazard:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in labeled containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

To contact Pasco County's [Building Construction Services Department](#), call 727-847-8127 or visit their website at: <http://bit.ly/2j2H4n7>.