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How to Prepare for Hurricane Season

CLEVELAND, OHIO (September 2014) – When a hurricane hits, many are left without power. It doesn't have to be a massive storm to cause a power outage either. During the aftermath of severe weather, the use of portable generators can help families and communities regain normalcy.

"We can't control Mother Nature, but we can control how prepared we are for whatever weather comes our way," said Joe Harding, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association (PGMA). "Take preemptive measures to prepare your home for severe weather."

Part of the preparation should include a portable generator to maintain power in the event of a utility power outage. Although there are many benefits to using a portable generator, some people may be unaware of the dangers, especially when it comes to carbon monoxide poisoning. To minimize these tragedies, it's important for users to understand proper placement and usage of a generator. Here are some key safety tips to keep in mind:

- Never run a portable generator indoors or in any partially enclosed space.
- Always place a portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces.
- Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm according to manufacturer's instructions.
- If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while using your portable generator and get to fresh air immediately. Do not attempt to shut off the portable generator before moving to fresh air.

No matter how long or short a power outage is, being prepared will eliminate last-minute stress and uncertainty. And having an emergency preparedness plan in place will save your family money and headaches down the road. In advance, families should gather the following items for an emergency kit:

- Water – at least one gallon per person for three to seven days
- Food – non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-powered or Hand Crank Radio
- First Aid Kit

- Medications – seven day supply
- Multi-purpose tool
- Cash and Credit Cards
- Clothing
- Blankets and Pillows
- Family and Emergency Contact Information
- Carbon Monoxide Detector
- Gasoline, or other fuel as required, for your portable generator

To learn more, visit pgmaonline.com.

About Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association

The Portable Generator Manufacturers Association (PGMA) is a trade association that seeks to develop and influence safety and performance standards for the portable generator industry and its products. Formed in 2009, PGMA members include the major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America including [American Honda Motor Co.](#), [Briggs & Stratton Home Power Products](#), [Champion Power Equipment](#), [Generac Power Systems](#), [Pramac America](#), [Subaru Industrial Power](#), [Techtronic Industries North America](#), [Wacker Neuson Production Americas LLC](#) and [Yamaha Motor Corp USA](#).

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