

# Carbon monoxide hazards rise in wintry weather

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(HealthDay)—Along with other hazards, winter storms bring with them

an increased risk for illness and death from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a gas known as the silent killer because you can't see, smell or taste it, Dr. Diane Calello explained in a news release from Rutgers University.

To reduce your risk for [carbon monoxide exposure](#) and poisoning, Calello, medical director of the New Jersey Poison Control Center, said it's important to:

- Only use generators outside and keep them more than 20 feet from both your and your neighbor's home, doors and or windows. Carbon monoxide gas from a generator can enter homes if the generator is too close.
- Clear snow from all heating and dryer vents. Be sure that gas appliances have adequate ventilation. If necessary, keep a window slightly open to allow airflow. Make sure you open the flue when using a fireplace, too.
- Never use the stove to heat your home. Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside. This includes inside your home, basement, garage, carport, camper, boat cabin or tent. Don't even use these devices outside near an open window or door.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home. Monitor the batteries and replace them if needed. If detectors are old or not working properly, replace them immediately.
- Don't idle a car in a closed garage. Don't idle a car in a snowbank, either. If your car is stuck in the snow, clear the tailpipe and surrounding area to keep exhaust fumes from getting into the car.

If you suspect [carbon monoxide](#) poisoning, call 911 immediately and get

everyone out of the building. Don't waste time opening windows. Also call the Poison Control Center—1-800-222-1222—for immediate treatment advice, Calello said.

**More information:** SOURCE: Rutgers University, news release, January 2018

The National Safety Council has more on [carbon monoxide](#).

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