

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

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News Release

For immediate release

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Summit Fire Department Issues Information on Generator Safety

SUMMIT, N.J., August 5, 2020 – The City of Summit Fire Department is issuing information on how to use generators safety during power outages. The department recently received a number of emergency calls related to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in homes from generator use.

The Summit Fire Department asks citizens to employ the following safety tips when using a generator:

- Never use a generator inside a home, garage, crawl space, or other enclosed areas. Fatal carbon monoxide fumes can build up that neither a fan nor open doors and windows can properly ventilate.
- Professionally installed stationary home generators produce carbon monoxide and can cause carbon monoxide to enter the home. Ensure openings near a generator are sealed shut.
- Always use a generator outdoors in a location away from open windows, vents, or doors.
- Always have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home. Check to ensure it is in proper working order, especially when running a generator.
- Use extension cords that are grounded and rated for generator use. Coiled cords can get extremely hot; always uncoil cords and lay flat in open locations.
- Never plug a generator directly into a home outlet. If connecting a generator into a home electrical system, have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.
- Take precautions to protect your generator from exposure to rain and snow, and never operate under wet conditions.

For more information on the Summit Fire Department and generator safety, please visit cityofsummit.org/fire.

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