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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safety Checklist for Propane Standby Generators in Storm Season

Mid-Atlantic (October 15, 2009) – For those homeowners relying on standby propane generators during strong storms for heating, cooking, and power needs, the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) offers reminders on safely preparing for, and recovering from strong storms.

GENERATOR SAFETY

1. Since generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide, never use a generator indoors or in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. They should always remain outdoors.
2. Keep the generator away from the house and entry points (e.g., windows, vents) on a level, dry surface, protected from weather, dirt, and debris.
3. Know how you plan to use your generator and hook up the power accordingly. A heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord is appropriate to power 1-2 appliances or a few lights. Make sure the cord is free of cuts and tears and that its plug has three prongs and a grounding pin.
4. If you want to power appliances that cannot be unplugged from your home's electrical circuits, such as a furnace, or if you want the generator to run all of your lights, then you will need a transfer, or bypass, switch. A licensed electrician should always install transfer switches.
5. Hire a licensed plumber or pipe fitter to install the gas connections for a propane-powered generator.
6. Never plug the generator into a house wall outlet in an attempt to power the house or you could be electrocuted.
7. Consider purchasing a generator with a low-fuel shutdown to protect your generator if the fuel drops below a safe operating level.
8. Before refueling, shut off the generator and let it cool down.

To learn about the role of propane in emergency preparedness and planning, including real-world stories from Hurricane Katrina, visit www.propanecast.com.

More than 50 million Americans choose propane as their safe and reliable energy source. For more information, visit www.mapga.org or www.usepropane.com.

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