

# News



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 7, 2013

Connecticut Department of Public Health

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## **State Health Department Warns Residents of Dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Anticipation of Storm**

**Hartford** – In anticipation of Friday’s storm, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) warned residents of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

With the potential for blizzard-like conditions and large amounts of snowfall with tomorrow’s storm, a chance for power outages and deep snow could cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to buildup in homes and cars.

In the event of a power outage, DPH asks residents to use portable generators safely and not bring outdoor grilling devices inside the home for cooking or warmth. Exhaust from portable generators and outdoor grills contain carbon monoxide. Opening windows and doors, and operating fans is not sufficient to prevent the buildup of CO in a home.

When using a generator or outdoor grill:

- Only use generators and outdoor grills outside of your home and never in enclosed spaces such as garages, basements, or porches.
- Always run your generator outdoors as far from your home and your neighbors’ homes as possible (at least 20 feet) and away from doors, windows, and air intake vents.

Deep snow can also increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in homes and cars. Residents should:

- **Make sure inlets and outlets for your furnace are free of snow.** Some furnaces have exhaust vents that could become blocked by snow, causing ventilation problems. Know what type of exhaust system your furnace has and where the exhaust inlets and outlets are located for your home.
- **After a snow storm, make sure your car's exhaust pipe is clear.** A clogged exhaust pipe could lead to carbon monoxide buildup in your vehicle.

*The Connecticut Department of Public Health is the state’s leader in public health policy and advocacy with a mission to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of our state. To contact the department, please visit its website at [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph) or call (860) 509-7270.*

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