

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE PLANDOME FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Plandome Fire Department has responded to over a dozen alarms since Tuesday involving carbon monoxide. The suspected cause of most if not all of these alarms is the use of portable and fixed generators by homeowners during the current power outage.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas known as “the silent killer”. At low levels of exposure, it can cause headaches, dizziness, weakness, fatigue and nausea, often described as “flu-like” symptoms. At high levels of exposure, it can cause disorientation, unconsciousness or death within minutes.

It is highly recommended that you install battery-operated or battery backup CO detectors on every level of your home.

Although the Village does not generally permit the use of portable generators, the Village does not object to their limited use during an emergency situation. Please note that any portable generator or other gas-powered equipment should ONLY be used OUTSIDE your home or garage and more than 20 feet from any door, window or vent.

The Village issues permits for the installation of fixed generators, which must be installed at least 3 feet from a dwelling, at least 5 feet from any window or door, and at least 10 feet from the side or rear property line (and not in your front yard). There should also be a placard installed near your exterior electrical service panel to alert first responders to the presence of a fixed generator.

Given the extended use of generators during this past week, it is recommended that homeowners turn off their generators for several hours a day and open the windows of their residence to help mitigate the buildup of carbon monoxide inside your home. The use of fans to push air outside your home may also be helpful.

If there are any questions regarding permitted generator use or installation, please contact the Village Building Inspector David DeRienzi at [516-627-1748](tel:516-627-1748).

If you have a carbon monoxide alarm or other fire emergency, call the Plandome Fire Department’s Emergency Telephone Number, [516-742-3300](tel:516-742-3300).

Stay safe!

Plandome Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs