

Importance of Preparing for Power Outages from Winter Storms Tips on Using Standby Generators

November 21, 2013, Asheville, NC - Heavy snow, extreme cold, sleet and ice, and near-blinding blizzards may all be part of winter, but being unprepared for them shouldn't be. Winter storms can cause extended power outages and hazardous travel conditions. Access to fuel and emergency and medical services may be limited once a severe storm hits a region.

Notes Jessie W. Johnson, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Blossman Propane Gas, "An ideal way for homeowners to prepare for a power outage is to install a standby generator system. Fueled by liquid propane



or natural gas, standby generators automatically keep the power on when a home's primary power source goes out, allowing homeowners to run appliances like air conditioners, heaters, refrigerators, sump pumps, clothes washers/dryers and lights.

5 TIPS FOR USING STANDBY GENERATORS

1. Portable generators should only be used outdoors and away from open windows or doors to avoid fumes from entering the home.
2. Homeowners should read and follow the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions to ensure that the generator provides power when needed.
3. Generators used to restore power can be extremely hazardous and even life threatening when not properly operated and maintained. The primary hazard when using a generator is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the engine exhaust. Unlike fire or smoke – CO is a deadly gas that you cannot see or smell.
4. For additional information on Carbon Monoxide Hazards and Safety, visit www.cpsc.gov.
5. Learn how to get involved in your community, prepare and train for local disasters by visiting www.nsc.org or www.citizencorps.gov.

In addition to safeguarding a home's power supply, being prepared for a winter storm or any other type of disaster requires preparation beforehand. There are **3 important steps you should complete in preparation for a winter storm.**

- Having the proper emergency preparedness kit. Emergency Preparedness Kits from Essential Packs provide you and your family with the emergency supplies your family needs to last for 3 day (72 hours).
- Make a plan. Sit down with your family members and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Be informed. FEMA offers an in-depth Citizen's Guide to Disaster Preparedness, providing you with comprehensive emergency preparedness information for a variety of disasters.

PERC- Propane Education Research Council offers these **tips** on Winter Storm Preparedness.

<http://www.propanesafety.com/winterstorm-preparedness>



Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more tips on how to keep your family safe during a winter storm contact your nearest Blossman branch for product information www.blossmangas.com.

ABOUT BLOSSMAN GAS

Blossman Propane Gas, Appliance & Service has been providing comfort to families throughout the Southeast for more than 60 years. Servicing customers from 67 branches and 12 states, the family and employee-owned company sells more than 76 million gallons of propane per year. Its expert sales staff demonstrates exceptional knowledge on most national manufacturers' gas-related products: ranges, cooktops, water heaters, generators, gas grills, and gas logs. Leading the industry in technician training, Blossman is a full-service company that provides everything from propane delivery to appliance sales, installation, and service. For more information, call 1.888.Blossman or visit www.blossmangas.com.