



FLORIDA/USVI POISON INFORMATION CENTER - JACKSONVILLE
655 West Eighth Street, Box C-23
Jacksonville, Florida 32209
floridapoisoncontrol.org 904.244.4465 (o) 904.244.4063 (f)

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *Brie Burge*

Media Relations/Education Associate

burge@poison.ufl.edu 904.244.7978

POISON CENTER ISSUES SAFETY ALERT FOR GENERATOR USE FOLLOWING HURRICANE MATTHEW

JACKSONVILLE, FL (October 8, 2016) — As hundreds of thousands of Florida residents remain without power following Hurricane Matthew, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville urges residents to take steps to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning related to portable generator use.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is the most common poison-related cause of hospitalization and death in the wake of hurricanes. It is called a “silent killer” because there are no odors or specific symptoms that signal a problem. When people use generators improperly – too close to homes, in garages, or outside bedroom windows – carbon monoxide can seep in and sicken or even kill. Open windows or outside garage doors do not provide adequate ventilation for generators or other gas-powered equipment.

“We encourage anyone who loses power and plans to use a portable generator to take precautions and follow key safety steps,” said Jay L. Schauben, Pharm D, DABAT, FAACT, Director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is an entirely preventable emergency.”

The Poison Center recommends the following tips for using portable generators safely:

- Follow the manufacturer’s safety instructions.
- Never use portable generators indoors, in garages, or near open windows. Make sure it’s in a well-ventilated location away from all doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Use battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms. Be sure to test the batteries.
- Do not siphon gasoline by mouth to fill a generator with fuel.
- If you experience sleepiness, dizziness, headaches, confusion, weakness, or your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, seek fresh air IMMEDIATELY and call 800-222-1222 if you have questions.

-more-

More carbon monoxide poison prevention tips are available on the Florida Poison Control Center website at <http://floridapoisontcontrol.org/poisoning-in-florida/carbon-monoxide>

For more information, the media may contact Brie Burge, Media Relations/Education Associate, at 904.244.4465 or burge@poison.ufl.edu.

The mission of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is to provide exceptional care for individual patients and for supporting public health through information, surveillance, education and research. Experts staff the Poison Help Hotline at 800-222-1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and poison information providers.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is a cooperative effort between the University of Florida College of Medicine, UF Health Jacksonville, the University of Florida Health Science Center - Jacksonville, and the State of Florida, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is designated as an accredited regional poison control center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

To learn more, visit floridapoisontcontrol.org, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@FloridaPoison](#)).

Counties Served:

Alachua · Baker · Bay · Bradford · Brevard · Calhoun · Citrus · Clay · Columbia · Dixie · Duval · Escambia · Flagler · Franklin
Gadsden · Gilchrist · Gulf · Hamilton · Hernando · Holmes · Jackson · Jefferson · Lafayette · Lake · Leon · Levy · Liberty
Madison · Marion · Nassau · Okaloosa · Putnam · Santa Rosa · St. Johns · Sumter · Suwannee
Taylor · Union · Volusia · Wakulla · Walton · Washington
United States Virgin Islands

###