



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### State Fire Marshal's Office Urges Generator Safety Ahead of Ida

**BATON ROUGE-** As Louisiana residents prepare for Tropical Storm Ida, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) is encouraging all families to keep safety in mind when utilizing portable generators.

"You often hear the phrase 'Get A Game Plan' when we're talking about preparing for tropical weather systems threatening our state, but that game plan has got to include best practices for safe generator use," said State Fire Marshal Chief H. "Butch" Browning.

Generators produce carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill without warning. That's why it's also imperative to have a carbon monoxide detector for your home, especially if you plan on using a generator.

The following generator safety tips are simple, but effective in saving lives:

- Do not place generators inside of any structure including garages, carports and sheds
- Instead, place the generator at least 20 feet away from your home, down-wind away from open doors, windows and vents
- Before refueling, turn the generator off and allow it to cool for 15-20 minutes
- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet
- Instead, use a heavy-duty, outdoor extension cord to plug appliances into generators
- Do not use in rain or wet conditions
- Have a fire extinguisher nearby
- Have a carbon monoxide monitor for your home

To hear Chief Browning share these tips on video, click here: <https://youtu.be/7HsupqhBVis>

To hear a powerful carbon monoxide save story, click here: <https://youtu.be/b8HoJIAQIdk>

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