



For Immediate Release
July 12, 2005

Contact: NCEH/ATSDR Media Relations
404-498-0070

Media Advisory

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious post-hurricane hazard

Use generators, grills, and camp stoves outdoors to prevent poisoning, death

In the wake of Hurricane Dennis, CDC and state health departments want to alert the public to health dangers related to carbon monoxide poisoning. Every year, more than 500 people die when they don't follow simple guidelines for using gasoline- and charcoal-burning devices.

Generators, grills, and camp stoves emit carbon monoxide gas. Exposure to the gas can cause sickness or death. To avoid accidental poisoning or death, these and similar devices should be used outdoors away from open windows.

Please share the following safety information with your readers, viewers and listeners.

You can prevent accidental carbon monoxide poisoning by following simple precautions:

- Keep generators, grills, camp stoves or other devices that emit carbon monoxide gas outdoors.
- Place generators away from open windows and doors. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur if gases from generators outdoors enter a window or door.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Ensure that it has battery back-up if the power goes off.

Two recorded PSAs about carbon monoxide hazards, each in Spanish and English, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/carbonmonoxide/psa.htm>

Text for hurricane-related PSAs is at

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/psa.asp>. Topics covered are

- Preparing for Hurricanes: Prescription Medications
- Evacuating the Area of a Hurricane
- Carbon Monoxide
- Staying Safe in Your Home During a Hurricane
- Electrical Safety
- Mold Prevention

Hurricane readiness and recovery information and links are at

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>

For more information: Public inquiries: 1-888-422-8737 (toll-free) or e-mail: atsdric@cdc.gov

National Center for Environmental Health Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh>.