In the short term: CO Poisoning

Leading cause of non-drug poisoning deaths every year in the U.S.
• ~450 deaths
• over 20,000 individual ER visits
Power outage CO sources

• Climate and season dependent
  • Heating
  • Power
  • Cooking
  • Cleaning
• Placement is key
Power outage sources economics

- Space heaters >$100
- Charcoal
  - 10 lbs. $5.00
  - May already have a grill
  - Widely available
- Generators
  - Typical cost: now as little as $200
Generators: Location, location, location

- Portability concerns
- Theft concerns
- Weatherization
- Cord length
Primary & Secondary Prevention

CO Poisoning can be prevented by:

• Keeping portable generators (and all motors) more than 20 feet from the home
• Installing battery-operated or back-up CO detectors in the home
KAP: CO Sources and Detectors

• Many do not consider themselves at risk.
• Many portable generator owners place their generators in enclosed spaces.
• Most are unsure where to place CO detectors or how many they should install.
• Most change batteries “when a detector chirps” rather than every 6 months.
A toolkit

DANGER!

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Follow these steps to keep your family safe:

PORTABLE GENERATORS
- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

CO DETECTORS
- Install battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

PORTABLE GENERATORS
- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT, KEEP YOUR GENERATOR OUTSIDE

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Follow these steps to keep your family safe:

PORTABLE GENERATORS
- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

CO DETECTORS
- Install battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

OLY & GAS FURNACES
- Have your furnace inspected every year.

WHEN YOUR FURNACE KICKS ON, BE SURE POISON GAS ISN'T COMING OUT

Gas- and oil-burning furnaces produce carbon monoxide (CO), an invisible, odorless, poisonous gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Keep your family safe by following these steps:

- Have your furnace inspected every year.
- Install battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING WHILE YOU PROTECT THEM FROM THE COLD.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that kills without warning. It’s produced by gas and oil-burning furnaces. Keep your family safe by following these steps:

- Install battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.
- Have your furnace inspected every year.
Here is the URL

- https://www.nphic.org/toolkits/carbon-monoxide
- Or go to cdc.gov/co
Power back on?

- Your problems are far from over
Why does mold grow?

It’s all about water intrusion!
Factors Affecting Indoor Mold Growth

- **Water intrusion from exterior sources**
  - Rain, melting snow and ice, flood waters, groundwater, irrigation water, failures in municipal water supply lines
- **Water intrusion from interior sources**
  - Leaks in plumbing lines, ceilings, walls
- **Enclosing wet building materials during construction process**
- **Occuptant behaviors/indoor humidity**
  - Cooking, bathing
  - Overcrowding
- **Major storms**
  - Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma (2005), Sandy (2012)
  - South Carolina 1,000 Year Flood (2015)
Why isn’t mold growth contained?

• Notion that mold can simply be cleaned up and is not harmful to health
• Inadequate remediation
• Expense
• Strength and specificity of mold and dampness in law and policy
• Lack of code enforcement
Mold basics

- If mold is growing in your home, you need to clean up the mold *and* fix the moisture problem. Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of household laundry bleach in 1 gallon of water.
- Not everyone should be doing mold clean-up
- www.cdc.gov/mold
Questions?

scd3@cdc.gov