Residents Urged to Use Caution when Operating Generators

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BATON ROUGE, La.-- Every year, people die because of deadly exhaust fumes from generators that seep into homes. It only takes a small opening for enough carbon monoxide to kill or injure residents to enter a home. That's why the Department of Health and Hospitals is cautioning residents who may be using generators because of power outages caused by Tropical Storm Isaac to be mindful of the dangerous health risks that may result if generators are not used properly.

Carbon monoxide does not have a smell or color. It builds up in the body through repeated exposures. The only way to know if you are being exposed to this deadly gas is using a carbon monoxide detector. Get a battery powered carbon monoxide detector so that it will work even if the power goes out. The Department of Health and Hospitals encourage residents to check their generators with a rechargeable battery powered carbon monoxide detector. An example of a battery powered carbon monoxide detector is the First Alert battery powered carbon monoxide detector, available at Home Depot, Lowe's and Lowe's Home Improvement stores.