



**Town of Falmouth**  
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**NEWS RELEASE - 2014-01**

**For Immediate Release: February 13, 2014**

**For Further Information, contact EMA Director Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610**

**Falmouth EMA Reminds Residents about Generator Safety**

Falmouth Emergency Management is reminding all residents about using generators safely. Generators should not be operated in a building, which includes a house, shed, or garage. Running a generator in an enclosed space even briefly can produce high levels of carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide gas, an odorless and colorless gas, is toxic and can be fatal if inhaled at high levels. To be safe, Falmouth Emergency Management recommends running a generator at least 15 feet from any occupied building and away from windows and doors. During snowstorms, residents are encouraged to clear an area for a generator when they shovel or plow their driveways and walkways. This will make it easier to safely place a generator if needed.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea, vomiting and loss of coordination. If anyone is feeling these symptoms they are encouraged to leave the immediate area to get to fresh air and call 9-1-1.

Refueling a generator can also pose a hazard due to gasoline being spilled on a hot motor or exhaust. Use caution refueling any gasoline-powered equipment. If possible, let the equipment cool down before refueling. Also be sure to leave an area clear around your generator when it is operating.

Falmouth EMA recommends residents use carbon monoxide detectors on every level in their house. Falmouth EMA is offering free battery-powered smoke and CO detectors to Falmouth residents through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Residents can call (207) 730-4298 to request the detectors. Falmouth EMA has partnered with the Scarborough Fire Department and the Maine Center on Deafness to distribute special detectors for residents who are deaf and hard of hearing as well. If you cannot hear your smoke alarm due to hearing loss or the removal of your hearing aids at night, please call for an appointment.

End of release.

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