



**September 10, 2024, 2:15pm**

We are closely monitoring Tropical Storm Francine, which is expected to impact Louisiana tonight through tomorrow. Our offices will be closed tomorrow, September 11th. St. Tammany Parish Schools will be closed tomorrow and Thursday.

We urge residents to complete any necessary preparations, such as gathering supplies and moving outdoor furniture, by Tuesday evening. Residents are urged to shelter indoors during dangerous storm conditions.

Please continue to monitor weather conditions through your local news stations.

### **ROAD FLOODING**

Street flooding can be life-threatening. Dial 9-1-1 to report major street flooding, and never drive through water on the road. Expect high water on vulnerable roadways. High water signs are on site but will not be placed until it is safe for our public works personnel to travel.

### **WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

Our Public Works team is mobilized and preparations across the Town of Abita Springs are completed. In the event of a power outage, our well is equipped with an automatic switch to transfer generator power. Residents should not experience any loss of water pressure. However, our sewer system is not hardened for power outages. Generators on our lift stations will need to be started manually. Public works employees will not be dispatched until it is safe to do so. To help prevent overflows on our sewer collection system, please conserve water during any power outage. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **GAS SYSTEMS**

Natural gas smells like rotten eggs or sulfur. After a storm, flooding or uprooted trees can damage natural gas lines and meters or expose them. If you smell gas, avoid using any sources of ignition, such as cell phones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines, as natural gas can ignite from a spark. Please call and report gas smells to 911 immediately.

### **GENERATORS**

In the event of a power outage, make sure to use generators safely.

- NEVER run a generator inside.
- Keep your generator at least 20 feet away from doors & windows.
- Point exhaust away from home or business
- People using generators should make sure that their carbon monoxide alarms are working.

### **SANDBAGS**

St. Tammany Parish has Self-service sandbag locations continue to be open at the following local locations:

- Fritchie Public Works Barn (63119 LA-1090, Pearl River)
- St. Tammany Parish Government Complex (21410 Koop Drive, Mandeville)
- Covington Public Works Barn (1305 N. Florida Street, Covington)

Please bring your own shovel. Assistance will be available to those in need by calling 985-898-2557.



# St. Tammany Fire District 8

## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



Each year, more than

**400**

Americans die from  
unintentional CO poisoning  
not linked to fires, more than  
**20,000**

visit the emergency room,  
and more than

**4,000**

are hospitalized.



### What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide, or "CO," is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you.



### Where is CO found?

CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it.



### Who is at risk from CO poisoning?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Infants, the elderly, people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or breathing problems are more likely to get sick from CO.

## HOW CAN I PREVENT CO POISONING IN MY HOME?

- **Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home.** Check or replace the detector's battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Place your detector where it will wake you up if it alarms, such as outside your bedroom. Consider buying a detector with a digital readout. This detector can tell you the highest level of CO concentration in your home in addition to alarming. Replace your CO detector every 5 years.
- Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly.
- Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris and cause CO to build up inside your home or cabin.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating. This can cause a build up of CO inside your home.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. This can cause CO to build up inside your home.
- Never use a generator inside your home, or garage or less than 20' from any window, door, or vent.
- When using a generator, use a battery-powered or battery backup CO detector in your home.



## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING?

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are **headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion**. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you. **People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms.**



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

**Make a Plan.** Make sure you and your family are prepared by planning ahead. Write down emergency phone numbers and keep them on the refrigerator or near every phone in your house. Program them into your cell phone, too. Prepare an emergency supply kit. Locate the nearest shelter and different routes you can take to get there from your home.

**Pet owners:** Pre-identify shelters, a pet-friendly hotel, or an out-of-town friend or relative where you can take your pets in an evacuation. Local animal shelters may be able to offer advice.

**Gather emergency supplies:** During and after a hurricane, you may need supplies to keep your family safe and healthy. Remember that a hurricane could cut off your power and water supply. You also may not be able to travel because roads may be flooded or blocked.

**That's why it's best to be prepared—stock up on everything you might need now.**

**Be sure to prepare the following:**

- An emergency food and water supply.
- An emergency medicine supply.
- Emergency power sources such as flashlights (don't forget extra batteries).
- Safety and personal items.
- Charge all devices before you lose power, including extra power banks.
- Gather important documents, including medical documents, wills, passports and personal identification.

**Get your home ready:** Clear your yard. Make sure there's nothing that could blow around during the storm and damage your home. Move bikes, lawn furniture, grills, propane tanks, and building material inside or under shelter. Cover up windows and doors. Use storm shutters or nail pieces of plywood to the outside window frames to protect your windows. This can help keep you safe from pieces of shattered glass. Fill clean water containers with drinking water. You'll want to do this in case you lose your water supply during the storm. You can also fill up your sinks and bathtubs with water for washing. Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector's battery to prevent CO poisoning. Be ready to evacuate or stay at home. Always listen to authorities regarding whether you should evacuate or stay at home. If a hurricane is coming, you may hear an order from authorities to evacuate (leave your home). Never ignore an order to evacuate. Even sturdy, well-built houses may not hold up against a hurricane. Staying home to protect your property is not worth risking your health and safety. You may hear an order to stay at home. If driving conditions are dangerous, staying at home might be safer than leaving.



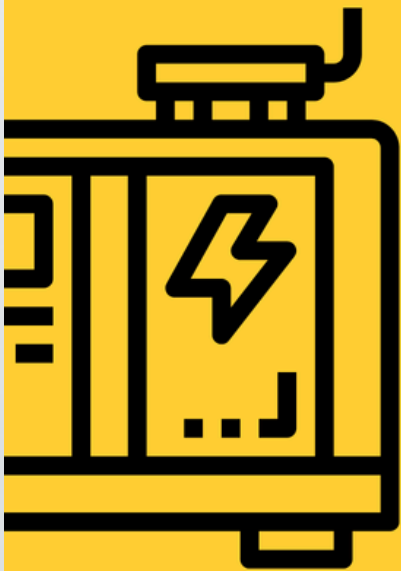
# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

**Get your car ready:** Make sure your car is ready before the storm hits. Fill your car's gas tank. Always keep an emergency kit in your car. If you don't own a car, consider making plans with friends or family or call authorities to get a ride if you need to evacuate.

**Get your family and pets ready:** Go over your emergency plan with your family. Keep checking for updates about the storm. Watch TV, listen to the radio, or check online.


**If you need to evacuate:** Grab your emergency supply kit and only take what you really need with you (cell phone, chargers, medicines, identification like a passport or license, and cash). Unplug your appliances. Follow the roads that emergency workers recommend even if there's traffic. Other routes might be blocked or flooded. **Never drive through flooded areas—cars and other vehicles can be swept away or may stall in just 6 inches of moving water.**

**If you need to stay home:** Keep your emergency supply kit in a place you can easily access. Listen to the radio or TV for updates on the hurricane. Stay inside. Even if it looks calm, don't go outside. Wait until you hear or see an official message that the hurricane is over. Sometimes, weather gets calm in the middle of a storm but then quickly gets bad again. Stay away from windows—you could get hurt by pieces of broken glass or flying debris during a storm. Stay in a room with no windows, or go inside a closet. Be ready to leave. If emergency authorities order you to leave or if your home is damaged, you may need to go to a shelter or a neighbor's house.



## GENERATOR SAFETY

- DO place your generator outside, more than 20 feet away from windows and doors
- DO NOT place near open windows or doors
- DO NOT use in wet conditions
- DO NOT refuel when hot
- DO NOT use a wall outlet



LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH