



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: All News Editors

Using Generators Indoors Can Be A Silent Killer

Montego Bay, Jamaica – Friday, December 05, 2025 — As communities across Jamaica continue to grapple with extended power outages in the wake of Hurricane Melissa, a dangerous, invisible threat has emerged; accidental Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from improperly used and stored generators. The misuse of these now essential machines can create a lethal environment in people's homes.

Carbon Monoxide, is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas, making it impossible to detect without an alarm. It is a natural byproduct of burning fuels like gasoline or diesel, which is used to power the generators many families rely on during power outages.

Dr. Delroy Fray, Clinical Coordinator for the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), underscored the critical need for vigilance:

"While generators are good, you must use them safely," cautioned Dr. Fray. "Generators emit carbon monoxide and ingesting too much carbon monoxide can affect the oxygen capacity in the body causing carbon monoxide poisoning."

It is stressed that there is only one safe location for a portable generator: outside, far away from any occupied structure. According to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), generators must be placed at least 20 feet (6 meters) away from the home, and a safe distance from all windows, doors, and vents, with the exhaust facing away from the house. Moving a generator just a few feet away is not enough, as exhaust fumes can easily creep back inside and accumulate to lethal levels.

Residents are urged to follow this 20-foot rule as a matter critical urgency. While safe outdoor placement is the primary defence, it is strongly recommended that all households using a generator install Carbon Monoxide alarms, particularly near sleeping areas, to provide an early warning. As recovery efforts continue and power remains unreliable for many, Jamaicans are urged to prioritize safety above all else. A running generator provides convenience, but when misused, it becomes a deadly threat that can silently claim lives without warning.

Never bring a generator indoors, the risk is not worth the cost of your life.

-END-