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[Music]
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After a flood, you or your neighbors may plan on using a portable generator to power your fridge,
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a gas or camp stove to cook, or a fuel-burning lantern to light your home at night.
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All of these devices produce carbon monoxide or CO . You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide,
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but breathing it could kill you in minutes.” These devices also pose a fire risk if you
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refuel them improperly.
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Follow these tips to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.
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Before you use any device, like a generator, make sure there are Carbon Monoxide detectors
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installed and working in your house. These detectors will alert you to high levels of
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CO in your home. Makes sure the alarm is loud enough to wake you and your family if it goes off.
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The best detectors for use after a flood are battery-powered or battery backup.
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Always put generators outside and at least 20 feet from any doors, windows, and vents.
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Use heavy duty extension cords from the generator to power your electronics. Ensure the generator
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and the cords are in a dry location. Never use a generator, camping stove or lantern
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inside homes, garages, crawl spaces, tents, or other dwellings
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even if doors and windows are open.
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Avoid putting a generator in wet areas due to risk of shock or electrocution.
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When you need to refuel a generator or other tools, turn them off and let them cool down
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before refueling. This will help prevent potential fires.
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If at any point you or someone else starts to feel sick or dizzy while these devices
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are in use, get to fresh air right away, then call 911.
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For more information on disaster cleanup visit epa.gov/flooded-homes