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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Public Safety Alert: GENERATOR SAFETY

With the approaching storm, Parish President Gordon Dove, Houma Fire Chief Keith Ward, in conjunction with the other Fire Chiefs in the parish, remind citizens of the dangers present in the use of portable generators, if electric power goes out during the storm. The following precautions should be taken for generator use:

1. Never use a portable generator indoors. There is a danger from carbon monoxide which is a deadly, odorless, colorless gas.
2. Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet. Use a heavy-duty extension cord from the generator directly to the appliance(s) to be powered.
3. Whole house generators must be installed by a licensed electrician. These should also be installed with a transfer switch to avoid feeding electric power back into the grid when electricity is restored.
4. If you use a portable generator, make sure the appliances you intend to power by the generator, do not exceed the rated wattage of your generator. In most cases, you should allow 2.5 times the listed wattage for starting the appliances you wish to power during the outage.
5. For more information on the use of portable generators, please refer to [www.tohsep.com](http://www.tohsep.com).

REMEMBER: You should NEVER connect a generator directly to your house without a transfer switch. A transfer switch will prevent the back-feed of electricity into the main utility lines.

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