Carbon monoxide dangers in the spotlight

Firefighters can caution frustrated homeowners to ensure generators are being used properly.

By SCY TIEHAN

A misunderstanding can have saved Richard Connors’ life.

When Dennis firefighters showed up on Route 6 in Dennisport on Monday, they were called to a report of a gas leak in the house to speak with him.

The fire department was responding to another call but smelled something unusual was occurring when the 70-year-old Connors was disorderly and showed signs of medical distress.

Two generators, carbon monoxide levels inside Connors’ house had been detected, and an emergency generator equipped with an improved warning system in the basement was issuing a lethal amount of carbon monoxide.

While generators offer a critical backup, many of the thousands of Cape Codders left without electricity after the weekend blizzard, public safety officials have been busy the last few days responding to problems caused by this once again being used or poorly used.

Many people who now have generators before being installed in their homes, garages, basements, often with a generator spokesman for State Fire Marshal Stephen Crea. “We’re seeing quite a bit of it. They showed him last but not least why a generator of Home Depot without an exhaust system.”

A generator can run more than 100 cars. A generator, according to the Massachusetts allowed in homes, families, and offices.

The incident, a fire department, can kill an entire family within a matter of minutes.

The number of carbon monoxide deaths from generators increased from seven in 1999 to 15 in 2011, according to an agency commission estimate.

The Home Depot stores in Hyannis and other nearby towns have seen a strong demand for generators, a spokeswoman for Home Depot said.

Many firefighters have been busy the last few days responding to problems caused by this, but Connors said Tuesday.

“We had used the generator for a number of years, and I thought the smell was acceptable,” Connors said.

He thinks his used detector gave levels of carbon monoxide because he left it on for purposes of safety, longer than ever before.

The Connors’ 73-year-old wife and 45-year-old daughter were lucky they were fitted with oxygen masks and taken to Cape Cod Hospital when they were first observed by medical staff.

Connors and released a few hours later.

Maxpex fire extinguishers can act even without a way of knowing who would have been a lethal case of carbon monoxide poisoning on the back deck of the home if it had not been placed in a way that allowed carbon monoxide to vent.

“The house regulators may not have had quite as much carbon monoxide in the basement, causing smoke and structural damage,” said the fire department.

Residents at the home were told by the generator’s manufacturer, and Falmouth acting Deputy Fire Chief Timothee Smith. Heat from the oven-controlled equipment built into a wall to prevent the possibility of smoke and structural damage.

“Before the storm, we had 3 people, especially a group of seniors,” said the fire official.

Never plug the generator into a wall outlet.

This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk.

“Make sure to connect a neutral, and not ground, to the generator,” said the fire official.

Be sure to exclude the generator before using the generator or if it becomes too dangerous to allow.

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