

# Smoke Detectors and CO Detectors Save Lives

We can't say it any better than that. Every residence in Massachusetts is required by law to have Smoke and CO Detectors. The reason for that is that they can and will save your life if they are operating correctly. Please test your detectors monthly, replace the batteries every time you change the time on your clocks (Daylight Savings Time), and replace the detectors every ten years!

Newer houses are required to have more detectors, per State law, but all houses should have a minimum of smoke detectors on each floor and outside each bedroom, and CO detectors on each floor. More are better!

For additional information check the Town of Holden web site under Fire Department and check the related links, or call the Holden Fire Department.

## Portable Generators

Considering the purchase of a portable generator? The Holden Fire Department asks you please read the following:

**Safety:** As we saw in past years improper use of generators has caused many deaths, mostly caused by inhalation of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is colorless, odorless, tasteless and DEADLY! **Never run a generator inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure. They must be used outside the structure.**

**Is it really needed?:** Clearly electricity is required for medical devices (CPAP, oxygen generators, dialyzers, IV pumps, etc.); electricity for refrigerator where insulin is kept; electricity for the sump pump, oil burner, well pump, septic system pump; electricity for quality of life (TV, DVD).

**Sizing:** Portable generators power specific electrical circuits. Some generators can power a few circuits, some many, some can power all circuits. Most consumer-oriented generators can **not** power circuits where electricity becomes heat – electric range, electric baseboard heat, electric clothes dryer. **A licensed electrician is the best resource to determine the generator size needed.**

**Installation:** **A bypass (transfer) switch must be used and installed by a licensed electrician.** This switch allows the generator to power the selected circuits, while disconnecting power that comes into the home from your electricity provider. By disconnecting your home from your electricity provider you prevent "back-feeding" – electricity from your portable generator going in the reverse direction, into the line coming into your home. Back-feeding has caused injuries and death to utility workers and others who touch downed power lines, assuming that they are not energized. The town of Holden requires a permit for installation of a bypass / transfer switch, **which must be installed by a licensed electrician.**

**Operation:** Follow all generator manufacture's directives: length of operation, refilling procedures, etc.

**Conclusion:** Safety is absolutely the major consideration. Use the generator in a safe outdoor location, keep fuel stored in a safe location, make sure that there are working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in place, and never, ever touch or go near a downed wire.

**A DOWNED WIRE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED A LIVE WIRE.**

Questions? Call (508) 210-5650, or via email: [Holden\\_Fire@Holdenma.gov](mailto:Holden_Fire@Holdenma.gov)