



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Fire Marshal's Office Urges Generator Safety Ahead of Zeta

BATON ROUGE- For the seventh time this hurricane season, Louisiana is in the crosshairs of a tropical system. As part of residents' preparations for this storm, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) is reminding everyone, once again, to keep safety in mind when utilizing portable generators.

"We know everyone is worn out from this hurricane season and that likely means we sound like a broken record on this topic, but these generator safety tips are critical," said State Fire Marshal Chief H. "Butch" Browning, "Following a number of devastating carbon monoxide deaths after Hurricane Laura, we were proud to see no similar deaths after Hurricane Delta. We want to thank everyone who has heeded these warnings and helped us spread our generator safety message this season. We hope everyone will do the same this, hopefully, last time."

Generators produce carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill without warning. That's why it's also imperative to have a carbon monoxide detector for your home, especially if you plan on using a generator.

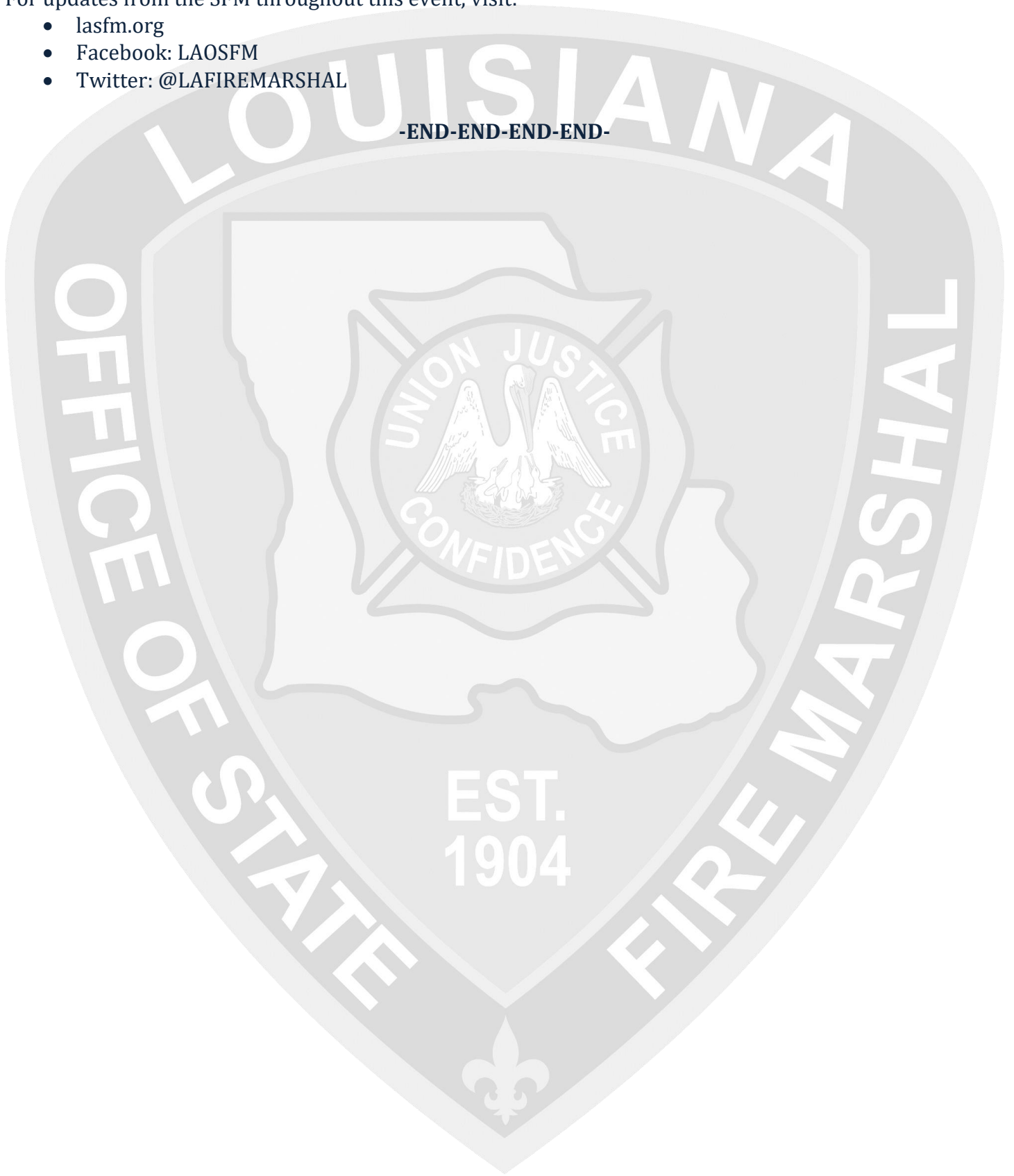
The following generator safety tips are simple, but effective in saving lives:

- Do not place generators inside of any structure including garages, carports and sheds
- Instead, place the generator at least 20 feet away from your home, down-wind away from open doors, windows and vents
- Before refueling, turn the generator off and allow it to cool for 15-20 minutes
- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet
- Instead, use a heavy-duty, outdoor extension cord to plug appliances into generators
- Do not use in rain or wet conditions
- Have a fire extinguisher nearby
- Have a carbon monoxide monitor for your home

To view a video on generator safety, click here: <https://youtu.be/7HsupqhBVis>

For updates from the SFM throughout this event, visit:

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