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****HURRICANE JEANNE INFORMATION SHEET ****

HEALTH OFFICIALS WARN OF CARBON MONOXIDE DANGERS

--Precautions after Hurricane Jeanne can help prevent poisoning--

Palm Beach County, FL – As Floridians begin the task of recovery from Hurricane Jeanne, the Palm Beach County Health Department is urging the public to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) exposure by taking precautions with gas-powered appliances and charcoal or gas grills.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless gas, and is highly poisonous. Depending on the level of exposure, CO may cause fatigue, weakness, chest pains for those with heart disease, shortness of breath upon exertion, nausea, vomiting, headaches, confusion, lack of coordination, impaired vision, loss of consciousness, and in severe cases, death.

Health Department recommends the following precautions to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent or fireplace.
- Do not use gas-powered generators or pressure washers indoors, not even in the garage.
- If you suspect you are experiencing any symptoms of CO poisoning, open doors and windows, turn off gas appliances and go outside. In cases of severe CO poisoning, call 911 emergency services or the nearest Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222
- For more information about indoor air quality, contact the Florida Department of Health's Indoor Air Toxics Hotline at 800-543-8279 or visit the Department of Health website at www.doh.state.fl.us.

For further information, please contact the Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-514-5300 or visit www.doh.state.fl.us/ or www.FloridaDisaster.org.

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