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## Press Release

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **Guard Your Home, Family Against Power Outages this Fall, Winter**

**Albany, NY – August 23, 2007** – Today's news is full of stories about the havoc caused by tropical storms and hurricanes. While the serious effects of these big storms tend to impact other parts of the country most, we know all too well that this time of year Mother Nature can bring severe weather to New York State.

Few residents of the Rochester, Syracuse and Utica areas will forget the Labor Day storm of 1998 when winds raced through the region leaving a path of destruction and power losses that lasted up to a week.

Statistics compiled by the New York State Department of Public Service show that while this may be an extreme example of a mass power outage, it is not uncommon for area residents to experience power outages each year. In fact, for the years 2001 through 2005, there were nearly 70,000 power interruptions each year throughout the state, affecting more than 5.6 million customers. Depending on your location, these power outages may have lasted several hours.

A recent survey conducted by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) verifies that area residents are indeed aware of this likelihood and that they are concerned about the potential of power outages.

The survey showed that a significant number of Americans expect to lose their electricity for 24 hours or more during the next six months. The survey also found that at least one in three adults nationally say a lengthy loss of power would result in at least some impact on their personal financial situation.

Some of the issues that homeowners surveyed were most concerned about in a power outage included: Food spoilage (69 percent); Loss of air conditioning (50 percent); Inability to stay informed (50 percent); Computer or phone loss (41 percent); Mold growth (39 percent); Inability to use medical devices installed in the home (29 percent); and Loss of a security system (24 percent).

"Whether it lasts for several hours or several days, a power outage can damage home appliances, cause food to spoil and even put a family's safety at risk," said Barbara Roach, executive director of the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA), a trade organization providing services to educate consumers and to communicate and promote the value of propane as an energy source.

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“Power outage-related threats don’t stop there. Outages can keep sump pumps from working, affect electrically-operated wells and water purifiers and even affect home businesses,” she added.

So how can area residents prepare for a power outage?

“One of the best ways may be a standby generator. The devices are wired directly into a home’s circuit breaker box and turn on automatically whenever there’s an outage,” said Michael Gioffre, chairman of NYPGA’s Marketing Committee. “Unlike a portable generator, you don’t have to hook it into your home’s electrical system in an emergency.”

According to the PERC survey, just 20 percent of respondents nationally say they own a generator that can be used as a backup power supply. Of these, 66 percent report owning a portable generator versus 25 percent who own a standby generator. Portable generators supply electricity to selected appliances through extension cords, while standby generators are permanently installed. Standby generators are also designed to automatically turn on in the case of a power outage to supply electricity to selected circuits in a home, ensuring that the impact of any power loss is minimized.

“Given the increasing frequency of power outages, homeowners should be thinking about both their immediate needs as well as solutions that can keep their families, homes, and possessions safe for the long-term,” said Mr. Gioffre. “A standby generator provides a continuous source of electricity when the power grid fails, whether it’s for several hours or several days.”

“A permanent standby generator could pay for itself in the event of a single power loss, and with propane, homeowners have a worry-free back-up power source that is environmentally safe to store, unlike diesel fuel and gasoline,” he stressed.

For more information, visit [www.nypropane.com](http://www.nypropane.com)

### About the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA)

NYPGA is a member-focused trade organization providing services that communicate, educate, and promote the propane industry in New York. The association was formed in 1948, to offer opportunities to learn through training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

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For more information, see attached.

## POTENTIAL SIDEBAR

### **Fast Facts: Standby Generators at a Glance** **Choosing a Standby Generator**

- Area residents can buy a generator from a home improvement retailer, online retailer or from a generator dealer who will offer installation and service. Make sure the store or dealer is reputable and that the generator comes with a comprehensive warranty.
- An average home's essential appliances will operate on an air-cooled standby generator with 7,000 to 13,000 watts of power. However, people with central air units that require a lot of energy to start up may need to buy larger generators. A certified electrician can provide an accurate reading of what your needs will be based on the appliances and circuits you want routed to the generator during an outage.

### **Powering a Standby Generator**

- Standby generators run on propane or natural gas during outages, which gives homeowners access to a reliable source of fuel to power their generator.
- Generators powered by propane tend to run longer than generators powered by other types of fuel. Plus, homeowners can store the propane in underground tanks that protect the fuel from the elements, while keeping it readily available.
- For more information or to find a propane gas distributor in your region, go to [www.nypropane.com](http://www.nypropane.com),