

# 5-MINUTE WINTER HOUSEHOLD SYSTEM AUDIT

## THE AIR SAFETY SYSTEM (PREVENTING CO POISONING)

- Detector Calibration:**  
Verify Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are powered and functional.
- Low-Level Placement:**  
Move at least one detector to knee-height (gas can settle).
- Exhaust Clearance:**  
Ensure external furnace and dryer vents are not obstructed by snow or ice.

## THE BACKUP HEATING SYSTEM (THE "WARM ZONE")

- Indoor-Safe Verification:**  
Confirm all backup heaters are rated for indoor use (e.g., Buddy Heaters).
- Micro-Climate Setup:**  
Pitch a "Warm Zone" tent in a central room to trap body heat and reduce the square footage you need to heat.
- Fuel Logistics:**  
Store propane and extra fuel in a detached, ventilated area—never inside the "Warm Zone".

## THE WATER & HYDRATION SYSTEM

- The Bed Check:**  
Move beds away from windows or apply safety film to the glass.
- Low-Shelf Shift:**  
Move heavy ceramic or glass items from high shelves to floor-level cabinets.
- Cabinet Latches:**  
Install push-to-close latches on kitchen cabinets to keep items from flying out.

## ZONE 4: GARAGE THREAT (STORAGE)

- The Expansion Rule:**  
Leave 20% "headroom" in water storage containers to prevent them from bursting if they freeze.
- Pipe Stress Relief:**  
Open cabinet doors and set faucets to a slow drip to prevent pressure buildup in uninsulated Southern plumbing.



## THE GENERATOR DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM (ZERO-FAILURE RULE)

- The 20-Foot Rule:**  
Map out a generator spot at least 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.
- Intake Protection:**  
Ensure the generator is shielded from direct moisture but has 360-degree airflow.

## THE POWER & COMMS SYSTEM

- Cold-Start Audit:**  
Check that your portable power banks use "Cold-Weather Chemistry" or are stored in an insulated bag.
- Signal Check:**  
Confirm you have a battery-operated or hand-crank radio for alerts if the local cell towers fail.

**⚠ WARNING:** Improper generator or heater use is the leading cause of winter fatalities. Audit your systems now.