

Generator Safety

When the lights go out, generators are a convenient source of emergency power. However, generators produce carbon monoxide (CO) which can cause death.



To safely use generator, proper location and operation is important.



Nearly 80 percent of CO poisoning deaths are from generators.



Half of generator-related deaths occur during winter - between November and February.



93 percent of generator deaths occurred when one was used inside a home or garage.



One portable generator produces the same amount of carbon monoxide as hundreds of cars.

Safety

- If using a portable generator, have battery-operated or battery back-up CO alarms in the home.
- Use the proper outlets (three prong). Do not overload the generator.
- Never connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a transfer switch. This can electrocute utility workers making repairs.

Location and Operation

- Only use generators outdoors. Never use in an attached garage.
- Keep the generator at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Never use as a permanent source of electricity.
- Protect the generator from rain or flooding.
- Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
- Use only the recommended fuel.