

Portable Generator Safety

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Portable generators can be a very useful piece of equipment during a power outage. Portable generators can also be very dangerous. If you plan on using a portable generator, it is essential that you take proper precautions for your safety and the safety of those working to restore the power.

Here are a few tips that will help you use a portable generator safely:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions before running your generator.
- Generators emit carbon monoxide. Never use your generator inside your home, garage, or any other confined, enclosed area.
- Operate generators away from open windows, vents, or doors.
- Never operate a generator near combustible materials.
- Maintain your generator according to the manufacturer's maintenance schedule.
- Gasoline vapors are extremely flammable. Allow the generator to cool at least a few minutes before attempting to refuel.
- Never plug your generator directly into your home outlet. If you are connecting a generator to your home electrical system, be sure to install a power transfer switch.
- If you have to use extension cords, be sure that they are the grounded type and are rated for the specific application.
- Coiled electrical cords can get extremely hot; always uncoil cords and lay them in flat open areas.
- Generators produce powerful voltage – Take precautions to protect your generator from exposure to rain and snow.
- Use caution - Be sure to not overload your generator.



Resources and References:

OSHA Portable Generator Grounding Requirements

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/grounding_port_generator.html

OSHA Portable Generator Fact Sheet URL

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/portable_generator_safety.pdf

OSHA Portable Generator Safety Webpage

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3277-10N-05-english-06-27-2007.html>

