

Generator Fire Hazards



Follow these tips to prevent fires:

- ◆ Do not store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running.
- ◆ Gasoline should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled safety containers. They should not be stored in a garage if a fuel-burning appliance is in the garage.
- ◆ Vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or electric arcs caused by turning on the lights.
- ◆ Avoid spilling fuel on hot components. Put out all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline.
- ◆ Always have a fully charged, appropriate fire extinguisher located near the generator and in the fuel storage area.
- ◆ Never attempt to refuel a portable generator while it's running.
- ◆ Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Portable generators are useful when temporary electric power is needed, but they are hazardous when used improperly. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire from fuels.



Portable Generator Safety Tips

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Carbon Monoxide Hazards



NEVER use a generator in enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide (CO) very quickly. When you use a portable generator, remember that you cannot smell or see CO. Even if you can't smell exhaust, you may still be exposed to CO.

If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT DELAY.** The CO from generators can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death. If you continue to have these symptoms, get medical attention immediately. Inform medical staff that CO poisoning is suspected.

Electrical Hazards

Follow these tips to protect against shock & electrocution:

- Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate it on a dry surface. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator. To prevent electrical shock, make



sure your generator is properly grounded. Consult your manufacturer's

manual for correct grounding procedures.

- Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check your appliances ratings, and add them up, do not exceed the generator's rating. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a

grounding pin. Protect cords from damage by doors, windows or other pinch hazards.

- NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back-feeding." This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices.
- For power outages, permanently installed stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to the home. Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded. This may result in overheating or stressing the generator components, possible leading to a generator failure.



Dangers of "back-feeding"

Don't Overload the Generator!