



Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- » Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- » Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- » Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- » Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- » Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.



- » Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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Winter Weather Safety Tips

- * Ensure that vehicles have full or nearly full fuel tanks, and are not in obvious need of maintenance
- * Encourage workers to wear proper clothing for cold and windy conditions, including layers that can be adjusted to changing conditions.
- * Keep spare items and other provisions in vehicles for unforeseen circumstances where they may need to take refuge in the vehicle. Such as blankets, food, water, flashlight, batteries, extra clothing.
- * Schedule non-discretionary, non-emergency work for the warmest part of the day.
- * Remember, workers face increased risks when they take certain medications, are in poor physical condition or suffer from illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension or cardiovascular disease
- * Ensure that workers who need to work outside have a clear contact schedule and functioning communications as required
- * Be sure workers in extreme conditions take a frequent short breaks in warm dry shelters to allow their bodies to warm up.
- * Use the buddy system - work in pairs so that one worker can recognize danger signs.
- * Drink warm, sweet beverages (sugar water, sports-type drinks) and avoid drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea, sodas or hot chocolate) or alcohol.
- * Eat warm, high-calorie foods such as hot pasta dishes.
- * Avoid exhaustion or fatigue because energy is needed to keep muscles warm.

Caution:

Prolonged exposure to freezing or cold temperatures may cause serious health problems such as trench foot, frostbite and hypothermia. In extreme cases, including cold water immersion, exposure can lead to death. Danger signs include uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, clumsy movements, fatigue and confused behavior. If these signs are observed, call for emergency help.