



Portable Generator Safety Tips

Safety, above all else!

A backup power source can keep you up and running during a power outage. However, generators can be dangerous to you and our crews if connected or used improperly. Every year people die in portable generator related accidents. Before using a generator, you should consult an electrician to determine the proper equipment and set-up for your residence or business. Backup generators must meet electrical codes and have a transfer switch to prevent dangerous back feed of electricity onto OPD5's power lines.

- Never operate a generator inside your home, business, or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including garages.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that generators be positioned at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) from entering your home or business.
- Install battery operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery backup inside your home or business.
- A generator is a temporary power source and should never be used as a permanent solution.
- Never connect generators directly to household or business wiring without first installing a transfer switch. This prevents back feeding, which could electrocute OPD5 workers making repairs.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Use only extension cords that have a three-pronged plug and are rated for the intended load.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Safety hazards to avoid are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock, electrocution, and fire.
- Read and follow all manufacturer's instructions.