

GENERATORS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



- ✓ **DO YOU HAVE A GENERATOR?**
- ✓ **DID A CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN INSTALL IT?**
- ✓ **DOES IT HAVE A DOUBLE-POLE, DOUBLE-THROW TRANSFER SWITCH?**

During major outages, many members without power turn to portable, standby generators to help run heating and cooling systems, and to keep food safe, lights on, and safety and medical equipment operating.

However, if used improperly, generators can prove to be a hazard to you, your home, the general public, and those working to get your power back on.

Electrocution, fire, and carbon monoxide poisoning are all potential consequences of improper generator use.

The co-op is interested in knowing if you have a generator connected at your home or business. Contact Adams Electric at 717/334-9211 or 888/232-6732 for information on sizing and selecting a generator, or with questions about safe generator operations.

WARNING

If you connect a portable electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house, the generator could backfeed on to Adams Electric's distribution system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electric lines.

To avoid backfeeding of electricity, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install either an automatic or manual double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and Adams Electric's distribution system, in compliance with all state and local electrical codes.

Generator owners/users may be held liable for damages, injuries, or deaths to the general public or utility personnel, caused by improperly used or installed generators.

TIPS FOR SAFE GENERATOR OPERATION



- Never plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets — unless you have had a licensed electrician install a "transfer switch" in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, power provided by the generator can "backfeed" along power lines, creating lethal hazards for utility crews working to restore power. It can also damage your home's electrical wiring or may even destroy the generator when power returns.
- For stationary generators that are permanently installed, a licensed electrician will need to install a "transfer switch" that complies with the National Electric Code. The switch safely cuts the electricity to the power lines either automatically or manually.
- Generators create carbon monoxide, which is odorless and invisible, and the fumes can quickly become deadly. If you use a generator, consider installing a carbon monoxide alarm (with battery backup) in the home, especially in sleeping areas.
- Generators must be operated outdoors and at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors, and vents — more than 15 feet is suggested.
- Connect individual appliances into the receptacle outlets on the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug, and are in good condition.
- Shut off the generator before refueling.
- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you start it. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and/or appliances and equipment.



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