

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: Portable Generator



Since Katrina, Gustav and Ike, we have all become more conscious of the need for a portable generator. As useful as they are with the loss of electric power, they do possess some potential hazards, if they aren't handled with care.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) recommends the following tips to assist you in preventing the loss of life and property stemming from misuse of portable generators.

Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning-

- Always use generators outdoors, away from windows, doors and vents. You should never use them in enclosed spaces, such as garages, basements, or crawl spaces, even if they have partial ventilation.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions and follow their guidelines.
- Install carbon monoxide monitors in your home. Make periodic checks for battery replacement and other possible malfunctions.

Avoid Fire Hazards –

- Always turn off the generator before refueling and allow the engine to cool down. Spilling fuel on hot engine parts can cause an ignition spark.
- Store fuel outside of living areas in approved containers with appropriate labeling. Also, it should be stored away from any fuel burning appliances.

Avoid Electrical Hazards-

- Keep the generator dry. Operate the generator on a dry surface, under an open-canopy type structure. Keep your hands dry while operating the generator.
- Plug the appliances directly into the generator. However, if using an extension cord is totally necessary, make sure that there are no cuts, frays on the cord and that the plug is in good condition with the prongs and ground prong is in place.
- Never plug the generator into a wall outlet. This is known as back feeding. It can cause an electrical risk to utility workers and others served by the utility transformer. If it is necessary to connect the generator to house wiring to appliances, obtain the services of a qualified electrician to install an appropriate transfer switch.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and possible shock injuries.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting it off.

A good general reminder, if you are using a generator at home keep children away from it.

~K.I.S.S.~

KEEP IT SAFE & SOUND

**SAFE ACTIONS BRING
LASTING REACTIONS!!!**

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Excerpts: www.kfdm.com/news
www.esfi.org/cms

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