

HAZARDS AND THREATS

Power Outages – Using a Generator Information

Does and Don'ts - Generator

- Don't overload your generator
 - Determine the amount of power you will need to operate those things you plan to connect to the generator.

(NOTE: Light bulb wattage indicates the power needed for lighting. Appliance and equipment labels indicate their power requirements).
 - If you can't determine the amount of power you will need, ask an electrician.
 - Make sure your generator produces more power than will be drawn by the things you connect to the generator, including the initial surge when it is turned on. If your generator does not produce enough power to operate everything at once, stagger the use of your equipment.
 - If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.

Use Your Generator Safely

Incorrect generator can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator.

Never use a portable generator indoors

- Garage
- Carport
- Basement
- Crawl Space
- Other Enclosed or Partially Enclosed Area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO build up in the home.
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air right away—don't delay.

- Install home CO alarms that are battery-operated or have battery back-up. Test batteries frequently and replace when needed.

Using a Generator Outdoors

Place the generator away from the following:

- Windows
- Doors
- Vents

that could allow CO to come indoors.

- Generators should be at least 15 feet away from buildings. Even 15 feet away, air flow patterns could still blow carbon monoxide (CO) into homes through attic vents, windows or doors, so it's very important to have a working CO detector inside the home.
- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Use and Store Generator Fuel Safely

- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store generator fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected areas. Local laws may restrict use or storage of fuel. Ask your local fire department for information.

What if a Portable Generator is part of my Back-Up Plan for Keeping my Life Support Equipment Operational During an Electrical Outage?

- Portable electric generators can be used to provide electricity during an electrical outage.
- When plugging your medical device directly into a temporary portable generator, carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never attempt to connect a generator to the house wiring. Only a licensed electrician should do this.

- Portable generators should NEVER be connected directly to utility line.

Do I Need to Let Southern California Edison (SCE) Know If I Purchase a Generator?

- Yes, State law (Section 119090 of the California Health and Safety Code) requires that you let SCE know if a generator is being used at your home or business. To notify SCE, please call 1-800-655-4555.

(Portable generator information provided by SCE Medical Baseline Allocation Program)

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