GENERATOR SAFETY

USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

**GENERATORS**

- **Location**
  - 20 ft away from your home
  - Never operate a generator in an enclosed space
  - Make sure the generator has 3-4 feet of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation
  - Keep generators away from doors, windows, and vents
  - Always direct exhaust away from your home

- **Use**
  - Always use grounded cords and inspect cords for damage prior to use
  - Use the proper cord for the wattage being used
  - Always use GFCI protection
  - Make sure to start / stop generators when no electrical loads are connected
  - Keep generators dry, do not operate when wet, and refuel when cool
  - Do not overload generators
  - Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered directly to the generator

**TRANSFER SWITCHES**

- Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between utility power or backup generator power
- Transfer switches are the only way to safely power your home’s electrical system
- Using a transfer switch prevents backfeeding. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the surrounding area and can damage your home, your neighbor’s homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

**CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION**

- Improper use and installation of generators could cause CO poisoning
- Make sure your home has carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home

**CO can kill in as little as 5 minutes**

- **Symptoms of CO poisoning**
  - Dizziness
  - Headaches
  - Nausea
  - Tiredness

If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911.

Please share this free resource to save lives

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