

WINTER STORM SAFETY

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 50% of all **portable generator**-related carbon monoxide deaths occur during the winter months (November - February). **Space heaters**, whether portable or stationary, account for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths according to the National Fire Protection Association. In addition to these inherent winter hazards, winter storms can also lead to serious hazards such as **downed power lines** and **flooding**.

ESFI OFFERS THESE SAFETY TIPS TO HELP YOU:



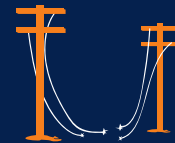
PREPARE

- Unplug your appliances and power cords from outlets to **protect** them from **power surges**.
- If you plan to use a portable generator, ESFI recommends a **licensed electrician** install it to ensure it will **operate safely**.
- **Test** your home's **carbon monoxide detectors** and **smoke alarms** to ensure they're functioning.



WEATHER

- Use **flashlights** as a source of light. Candles are a fire hazard
- **Never operate a generator inside your home** or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including the garage.
- Use a **battery-operated** radio to stay informed about important safety updates.
- If using a **space heater**, **plug directly into a wall outlet** and **keep at least three feet away from combustibles**.



RECOVER

- If **flood** waters reached the level of electrical outlets, contact a **licensed electrician** before attempting to use electricity in the home.
- Prior to use, have a qualified service repair dealer determine what electrical equipment should be **replaced** and what can be **reconditioned**.
- **Never touch** a fallen power line or drive through standing water if a downed power line is nearby. **Report downed lines** to local authorities.

ESFi Additional severe weather safety information is available at www.esfi.org.

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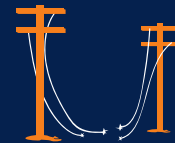
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