

## Generator Use and Safety Precautions

When the power goes off, many residents turn to emergency generators to power refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans and other appliances. If you use a generator, extreme caution is required. While convenient and useful, generators can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers. Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison gas. It is a component of the exhaust from the generator engine. The symptoms of exposure are subtle, but deadly. Never run your generator inside your home or garage or in any other enclosed space. Inexpensive CO detectors, similar to smoke alarms, are readily available and recommended as an added safety precaution.

To avoid Carbon Monoxide poisoning, never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes to the home.

To avoid electrocution, plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. This will overload and damage the generator and possibly create a fire hazard.

If a generator is connected to the house wiring, the home must have a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. A transfer switch connects your house to the generator and disconnects it from the utility power. This prevents back feeding, or energizing circuits outside your home. Back feeding most commonly occurs when a generator is connected directly to the electric panel or circuit in a home. Feeding power back into the utility system during an outage will energize the transformer serving the house and could pose a serious threat to crews working to restore power in the area who may not know they are working with an energized line.

Do not store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running. Gasoline (and other flammable liquids) should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass, safety containers. They should not be stored in a garage if a fuel-burning appliance is in the garage. The vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or electric arcs caused by

turning on the lights. Avoid spilling fuel on hot components. Put out all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Never attempt to refuel a portable generator while it is running.

Item	Running Wattage	Starting Wattage
Dishwasher, Hot Dry	1450	1400
Coffee Maker	1750	0
Electric Fry Pan	1300	0
Refrigerator or Freezer	700	2200
Dehumidifier	650	800
Clothes Dryer Electric	5750	1800
Toaster 4 slice	1650	0
Automatic Washer	1150	2300
Microwave Oven 625 watts	625	800
Electric Range 6-inch Element	1500	
Iron	1200	0
Computer	720	720
Water Heater	4500	4500
Fan 1/8 hp	400	600
Fan 1/4 hp	650	1200
Fan 1/2 hp	1100	2400

Item	Running Wattage	Starting Wattage
Garage Door Opener 1/2 hp	725	1400
Hair Dryers	300-1200	0
Lights	As indicated on bulb	

Radio	50 to 200	0
Well Pump - 1/3 hp 1/2 hp	800-1400	1300-2100
Sump Pump - 1/3 hp 1/2 hp	800-1050	1300-2150
Television, Color	300	0
Vacuum Cleaner	800	0
Air Conditioner		
10,000 BTU	1500	2200
20,000 BTU	2500	3300
24,000 BTU	3800	4950
32,000 BTU	5000	6500
40,000 BTU	6000	7800