



SAFETY ALERT

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

09.04.21

#SA2105

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is needed, and are commonly used during cleanup and recovery efforts following disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

Using a generator incorrectly can lead to dangerous situations such as electrocution, fires, and carbon monoxide poisoning.

1. Determining where to safely stage the generator is extremely important.



Always keep generators at least 20 feet away from your home



Always direct exhaust away from your home



Keep generators away from doors, windows, and vents

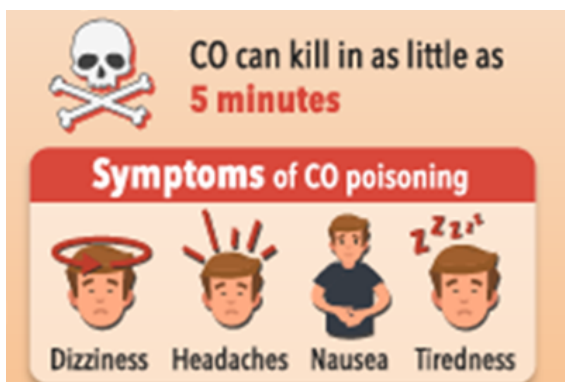


Never operate a generator in an enclosed space like a home or a garage



Make sure the generator has 3-4 feet of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation.

2. **Stay alert for Carbon Monoxide poisoning.** The safe location of the generator is important in preventing carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust. Even if you can't smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to carbon monoxide.



STOP WORK AUTHORITY.

Everyone at Associated Terminals has the authority to stop a job regardless of job title or function. If you see an unsafe activity or behavior, you have the right to stop the job with no repercussions.

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504.228.9480



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3. Watch for electrical hazards associated with generator use.

The electricity created by generators has the same hazards as normal utility-supplied electricity. The following precautions are provided to reduce shock and electrocution hazards:

- Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure unless a qualified electrician has properly installed the generator with a transfer switch. Attaching a generator directly to a building electrical system without a properly installed transfer switch can energize wiring systems and creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers and others in the area.
- Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged).
- Inspect the cords to make sure they are fully intact and not damaged, cut or abraded. Never use frayed or damaged extension cords.
- Ensure the cords are appropriately rated in watts or amps for the intended use. Do not use underrated cords or overload a generator; this can lead to overheating which can create a fire hazard.
- Make sure a generator is properly grounded and the grounding connections are tight. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for proper grounding methods.
- Keep a generator dry; do not use it in the rain or wet conditions. If needed, protect a generator with a canopy.

4. Refuel the generator safely

Generators become hot while running and remain hot for long periods after they are stopped. Generator fuels (gasoline, kerosene, etc.) can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts.

- Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
- Clean up any spills.
- Wear protective gloves and goggles when refueling.
- Do not smoke when refueling
- Gasoline and other generator fuels should be stored and transported in approved containers that are properly designed and marked for their contents and vented.
- Keep fuel containers away from flame producing and heat generating devices (such as the generator itself, water heaters, cigarettes, lighters, and matches). Do not smoke around fuel containers. Escaping vapors or vapors from spilled materials can travel long distances to ignition sources.
- Do not store generator fuels in your home. Store fuels away from living areas.

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