

# Generator Safety Infographic



# 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



Always keep generators at least **20 feet 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.**

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- 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
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  - 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**

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  - Headaches
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  - Tiredness
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