



## Generator Safety

Whether using them for backup power, play or work, caution should be exercised when using portable generators. Portable generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide, a deadly, odorless, and colorless gas. CPS Energy offers the following tips regarding safety when using a generator:

**\*Note that the following tips are not intended to replace the manufacturer's instructions. Carefully read the manufacturer's instructions before using a generator.**

- Do not connect generators directly to household wiring without an appropriate automatic transfer switch installed. Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can back feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs.
- Make sure the generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Never operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Place the generator outside, far from doors, windows, vents and other openings that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) to come indoors or be drawn into potentially occupied spaces. Direct the engine exhaust down-wind and away from potentially occupied spaces. Use carbon monoxide detectors (battery operated, or battery back-up) in nearby enclosed spaces to monitor levels. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.
- Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely, away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. Before re-fueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.