

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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## Portable Generator Safety Tips



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Portable generators can provide much needed sources of power during the time of electrical outages. But, they can also be deadly if improperly installed or operated.

### ***Did you know?***

- ✓ 481 carbon monoxide deaths associated with portable generators were reported by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) during period of 1999-2008.
- ✓ Over 80% of carbon monoxide deaths related to portable generators occur in the home, often resulting from operating the generator in the confines of the living space of the home, including the basement, closets and doorways.
- ✓ 1/3 of all generator related carbon monoxide deaths involved the use of generators during a temporary power outage stemming from a weather problem.
- ✓ Nearly 50% of portable generator-related carbon monoxide deaths occurred during the winter months (November thru February).

Taking a few simple precautions can keep you and your fellow workers and family safe from the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and electrical shock from the improper use of portable generators.

### **Generator Installation Safety Tips-**

- ❖ The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) recommends that a licensed electrician install home generators to ensure that they meet all local electrical codes.
- ❖ Do not connect generators directly to the household wiring without an appropriate 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 utility workers making repairs.
- ❖ Make sure that the generator is properly grounded according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- ❖ Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.

### **Using Your Generator Safely-**

- Never operate a generator inside your home or in any other enclosed or partially enclosed structure. Generators can very quickly produce high levels of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly.
- Opening doors and windows or operating fans to attempt to ventilate a generator will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home. Even with a working CO alarm, you should never use a gasoline-powered generator inside your home or garage.
- Keep children away from generators at all times.
- If you begin to feel dizzy – get to fresh air immediately.
- Generators are temporary sources of power. Use a generator only when necessary to power essential equipment and appliances.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Make sure that you store the fuel safely, away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. Before refueling, turn off the generator and let it cool down.

***GET SMART  
PRACTICE SAFETY FROM  
THE START!***

***~~SAFETY RULES ARE  
YOUR BEST TOOLS~~***