GENERATE SAFETY



Before use, learn about the potential dangers associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless poisonous gas that is often called the "silent killer" because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms.



BETWEEN

1992

AND

2012

NEARLY 80%

OF THE

931 CO DEATHS

WERE ASSOCIATED

WITH GENERATORS

Generator-Related CO Deaths

50%

During Cold Months (November-February)

20%

Other

Months

30%

During
"Transition Months"
(Mar/April, Sept/Oct)





NEVER operate a generator **INSIDE** your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including **GARAGES**.



Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).



Install battery-operated CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with a battery backup inside the home.



A generator is a **TEMPORARY** power source and should NEVER be used as a permanent solution.



Use only extension cords that have a THREE-PRONGED plug and are rated for the intended load.



Do NOT OVERLOAD the generator.



NEVER connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a TRANSFER SWITCH. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.



Operate generators in accordance with MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.



Never REFUEL while generator is running or hot.



Your home generator should be installed by a QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



The consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 FEET from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.



For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit www.esfi.org

"Data from "Incidents, Death, and In-Depth Investigations Associated with Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide from Engine-Driven Generators and Other Engine – Driven Tools, 1999- 2012": U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, August 2013.

