



**FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA**

[www.fpaneveda.org](http://www.fpaneveda.org)

## Portable Generators: Life-Saving Tips

- ☑ Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows, and vents. NEVER use generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- ☑ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- ☑ Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- ☑ Test CO detectors often and replace batteries when needed.
- ☑ Keep the generator dry. Use on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- ☑ Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- ☑ Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- ☑ NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet (known as back-feeding). This practice can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- ☑ If you must connect a generator to house wiring, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch as well.
- ☑ Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- ☑ Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, nonglass containers.
- ☑ Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

### Did you know?

- ▶ From 1990 to 2003, 228 carbon monoxide(CO) poisoning deaths were associated with portable generators, as reported to the CPSC.
- ▶ From 2001 to 2003, the number of reported CO poisoning deaths associated with portable generators doubled.
- ▶ The most common improper placement of portable generators that result in injury or death are in crawl spaces, basements, attached garages, within or in close proximity to the home.