

GENERATOR SAFETY

Safety Topic V6-0583

Electrical

Hazards associated with generators:

- Shocks and electrocution from improper use of power or accidentally energizing other electrical systems.
- Carbon monoxide from the exhaust.
- Fires from improperly refueling a generator or incorrectly storing the fuel.
- Noise and vibration hazards.



- Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure, like a home, office, or trailer, unless the generator has a properly installed open-transition transfer switch.
- Always plug electrical equipment directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords or extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged).
- Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces, and basements. Open windows and doors may not be enough to prevent CO from building up when a generator is located in an enclosed space.
- Do not use a generator outdoors if its placement near doors, windows, and vents could allow CO to enter and build up in occupied spaces.
- If you or anyone nearby begin to show symptoms of CO poisoning including dizziness, headaches, nausea, or tiredness, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.
- Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
- Keep generators as far away as possible from work areas and gathering spaces.
- Power off and do not use any electrical equipment that has strange odors or begins smoking.
- Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.

Discussion

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What should you do if the generator doesn't start or function properly?

How do you ensure there is enough ventilation when using a generator?