# SM&P

# Generator safety

# Protect yourself • your neighbors • and our crews

Generators can come in handy if the power goes out during a storm. But it's important to use them properly to keep yourself, your neighbors and our employees safe.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a generator to prevent injury, fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

## **Prevent backfeed**

Backfeed occurs when power is sent back through your home's electrical lines in reverse, creating a dangerous level of electricity that puts our crews at risk of severe injury or death.

#### Permanent generators:

Make sure an electrician installs a power transfer switch before using a permanent generator. Transfer switches allow you to choose between utility power or backup generator power.

#### **Portable generators:**

Never connect generators directly to your home's wiring or plug into a wall outlet. Consult with a licensed electrician before using.



### Portable generator safety tips

- Use a heavy-duty extension cord designed for outdoor use to connect appliances to the generator. Make sure the extension cord is free of cuts or tears and has a wattage rating that exceeds the total wattage of items plugged in.
- DO NOT plug a generator into a wall outlet, your home's breaker panel or where electric service enters your house. This may bypass your home's built-in circuit protection devices, puts your appliances and electronics at risk of damage, and puts our employees and your neighbors at risk of shock or electrocution.
- Follow safety guidelines when you handle and store generator fuel.
- More safety tips at www.esfi.org.



### Carbon monoxide awareness

- Keep portable generators at least 20 ft. away from your home.
- Never operate a
  generator inside your
  home or in other enclosed
  or partially enclosed
  spaces, including garages.
- Always operate away from doors, windows and vents.
- Direct the exhaust away from your home.
- Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, headaches, nausea and fatigue