



Portable Generators

Considerations for the Use of Portable Generators

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using them are electric shock or electrocution, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire.

Shock and Electrocution

The electricity created by generators has the same hazards as normal utility-supplied electricity. The following precautions are provided to reduce shock and electrocution hazards:

Never attach a generator directly to a wall outlet of a structure (home, office, trailer, etc.) This can backfeed electricity and create an electrocution hazard to workers and users in other areas

Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator or use grounded (3 prong) extension cords. Inspect cords to make sure they are not damaged, cut or abraded.

Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), especially where electrical equipment is used in or around wet or damp locations. GFCIs shut off power when an electrical current is



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Fire Hazards

Ensure cords are rated for the appropriate amperage for the intended use. Using underrated cords creates a fire risk.

Do not overload a generator; this can cause overheating and result in fire