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SAFE USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRIC GENERATORS

Portable generators are designed to be connected only to selected appliances or lamps. These generators never should be connected directly to a building's wiring system. They are designed to allow the user to Plug in directly to selected electrical appliances such as lights, sump pumps, refrigerators, fans or other items limited to the electrical wattage rating of the generator. Most portable electric generators for homeowner use are in the size range of 1,000 to 15,000 watts.

A licensed electrician can safely connect your generator to your homes electrical system with a "transfer switch" and proper wiring and connections. Most portable generator owners opt to plug in directly to selected electrical appliances during power outages.

Before starting your generator, carefully read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions.

Be sure that the total electric load on your generator won't exceed the manufacturer's rating

Always locate your generator outdoors where its exhaust will vent safely away from windows and doors. Carbon monoxide gas, which is poisonous, is part of the exhaust gases given off when running your portable gasoline powered electric generator.

Prioritize your needs. Use the lowest wattage light bulbs that provide a safe level of light, reserving power for additional lighting elsewhere and small appliances.

Remember that the greater the load on your generator, the more fuel it will use.

Store gasoline outside of the home and not in a garage.

Use a small unattached storage shed for this purpose that is located away from your home and garage that can be locked to keep children and others away from your fuel supply. Limit your fuel supply to just a five gallon gasoline can or two and fill your generator outside.

Always wait about five minutes for the generator to cool down prior to refueling. Excessive engine heat could cause a fire or explosion if you spill fuel on a hot engine.

Keep extension cords out of the way so they don't present

a tripping hazard -- especially in in dimly lit doorways or halls. Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed. Extension cords must be properly sized to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires or damage to equipment.

Safety Tips:

*Keep Generators Outdoors When in Use.

*Refuel After Engine Cools for Five Minutes. *Plug Directly Into The Generator.

1. Source: Update Safety publications, Doss/Michigan State Univ. and

http://www.pge.com/consumerservices/residential_generator.html.

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