

# SAFETY WITH 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 carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution, and fire.

There are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from improper use of portable generators.

## To Avoid Carbon Monoxide Hazards:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents.
- NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.

**“There are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life.”**

## To Avoid Electrical Hazards:

- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy- like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.

## To Avoid Fire Hazards:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

## Stop a portable generator fire, before it starts:

- Always use generators outside away from doors, windows, and vents.
- NEVER use generators inside buildings or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.

## Be prepared for a fire!:

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE SAFETY VISIT:**  
**[www.firemarshal.wv.gov](http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov)**