

## HOME GENERATOR TIPS

Generators carry the same electrical dangers as utility power and additional risks because safety devices are often bypassed. Major hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, and electrocution.

### Essential Safety Tips

#### General Use

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never connect a generator directly to a building's electrical system.

#### Carbon Monoxide Safety

- CO from generators has killed hundreds in the U.S.; it is odorless, colorless, and deadly within minutes.
- Operate generators outdoors only, with 3–4 feet of clearance on all sides.
- **Do Not** operate generators in homes, carports, or partially enclosed spaces.
- Keep them away from doors, windows, and vents; fans do not prevent CO buildup.
- Install battery-powered CO alarms indoors.
- Some generators include an automatic CO shutoff sensor.

#### Electrocution Prevention

- Operate on a dry surface under an open canopy if conditions are wet.
- Keep hands dry when touching the generator.
- Use GFCIs to reduce shock risk.
- Do not use equipment that has been submerged or is smoking.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords long enough to place the generator far from the home; ensure cords are undamaged and have all three prongs.
- Never back-feed by plugging a generator into a wall outlet—this endangers workers and bypasses circuit protection.

#### Fire Prevention

- Turn off the generator and let it cool before refueling.
- Store fuels (gasoline, propane, kerosene) outside living areas in proper containers, away from fuel-burning appliances.
- Prevent fuel vapors from reaching pilot lights or electrical sparks.
- Use cords rated for the proper wattage/amps and avoid overloading the generator.
- Never coil extension cords, as heat buildup can melt insulation.



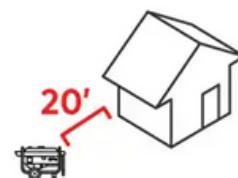
### HAZARDS

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning
- Fire
- Electrocution

#### How to Run a Generator Safely



Never run it in an enclosed space



Always run it at least 20 feet from your home



Always direct exhaust away from your home