

AGC Tool Box Safety Talk

PORTABLE GENERATORS

INTRODUCTION

1. Review any accidents or “near accidents” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOL BOX SAFETY TALK

Portable generators can offer great benefits when electrical power is not readily available. However, every year people die in incidents related to portable generator use. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator, and use these safe work practices:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. NEVER use generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy- like structure.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor- rated extension cord. If using an extension cord, make sure the entire cord is free of cuts or tears, and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as back feeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer. If necessary to connect generator to house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Or, ask your utility company to install an appropriate transfer switch.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas and away from any fuel-burning appliance. Store in properly labeled, non-glass containers.

