Upstate New York

Safely Operating Generators For Standby Power

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HERE WITH YO .

Putting safety first with electric generators

The electric generators referred to in this flyer are typically engine-driven and may be permanently installed or portable. These may run on gasoline, fuel oil/kerosene, natural gas or propane.

If you have or are planning to buy a standby generator for use when there's an outage on National Grid's system, please observe these guidelines to protect yourself and your family:

- Have a licensed or qualified electrician install your generator. It's not something that untrained people can do safely. The wiring installation must be done according to local codes, the National Electrical Code (NEC), and National Grid's Specifications for Electrical Installations.
- Make sure you get a generator that has enough capacity for your needs, including inrush for large motors. If it's too small, you could put too much strain on it, causing it to break down. Check manufacturer's instructions for sizing.
- Your wiring system must be disconnected from National Grid's system before you operate the generator.
- When using a portable generator, make sure the main circuit breaker in your electric service panel box is in the "OFF" position. If you have a fuse box instead of breakers, pull out the main block, remove the fuses and reinsert the empty block. This is necessary to prevent your generator's electricity from going back into National Grid's system, which could endanger the lives of line crews and your neighbors. Also, it is required by the NEC.
- For permanent installations, a double throw switch will allow you to easily and safely disconnect from National Grid's system and connect your generator during an outage. Be sure your switch is the type that disconnects your system from National Grid's system before the generator takes over. It is just as easy to reverse the process when National Grid power is on again. This is called "break-before-make" transfer. Have a double throw switch installed. It must be rated for its intended use according to the NEC and listed by a recognized independent test laboratory.

- A generator in a garage or outside building should be properly ventilated, since its exhaust (carbon monoxide) can cause serious injury and even death. **Never** install an electric generator inside a house. Operating a generator indoors, even with a door or window open, is **NEVER** safe!
- Generators make a lot of noise. Find a place for it where it will disturb your family and neighbors as little as possible.
- If possible, locate the standby generator close to where National Grid's electric service connects to your house or business. Consult your local city, town or village for any requirements or permits.
- Please notify National Grid's Customer Service Contact Center when you install your generator.

If you have any questions, please contact a licensed or qualified electrician or a National Grid customer service representative.

This is an important notice. Please have it translated.

Este é um aviso importante. Quiera mandá-lo traduzir.
Este es un aviso importante. Sirvase mandarlo traducir.
Avis important. Veuillez traduire immediatement.

Questa è un'informazione importante, Si prega di tradurla.

ĐÂY LÀ MỘT BẢN THÔNG CÁO QUAN TRỌNG
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Это очень важное сообщение.
Пожалуйста, попросите чтобы вам его перевели.

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Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a highly poisonous gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and virtually impossible to detect. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu and include headaches, dizziness, weakness, sleepiness, nausea, confusion, tightness of the chest, fluttering of the heart, redness of the skin and loss of muscle control.

If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, immediately go outside and breathe deeply. If symptoms are severe, get medical attention right away by calling **911**.

Please note that when you call to report a gas odor or suspected carbon monoxide poisoning, emergency responders need immediate access to the premises. If you or a designated person will not be there to provide access, they will, if needed, enlist the help of fire or police departments to gain entry. Any damages and expenses that result are the responsibility of the homeowner.

To protect against carbon monoxide poisoning, here are some steps you can take:

- Install a UL-listed home carbon monoxide detector.
- Arrange for an annual check of your heating system by a licensed professional heating contractor. If you haven't had your heating system inspected yet, call now.
- Check chimneys or flues for debris, bird nests or other blockages, and have them cleaned periodically.
- If your furnace vents in a way other than through a chimney, make sure that the vent is clear of leaves and other debris.
- Be sure space heaters and wood-burning stoves are in good condition, have adequate ventilation and are used in strict compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
- **NEVER** use a gas range for heating, or burn coal or charcoal in an enclosed space.
- **NEVER** leave a car idling in a closed garage.
- If you use a back-up electricity generator, install it outside. Open windows do not provide sufficient ventilation to safely operate a generator indoors.

For other publicly available electrical safety information, please go to Electrical Safety Foundation International at **www.esfi.org**.

To request a free copy of National Grid's Specifications for Electrical Installations, or for more energy-related health and safety information, call your Customer Service Contact Center, or visit **www.nationalgridus.com**.

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