

## Generator Safety Tips

A backup power source can keep you up and running during a power outage. However, generators can be dangerous to you and Southern California Edison crews if connected or used improperly. Before using a generator, you must consult an electrician to determine the proper equipment and safe set-up for your residence or business.

- **Equipment options:** Choose a generator rated for more power than you think you will need. This is best determined by an electrician.
- **Safety hazards:** The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock, electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with your generator for safe use.
- **Getting connected:** Use a heavy-duty, outdoor extension cord to connect electrical equipment to a portable generator. Be sure the cord is rated more than the sum of the power drawn by the connected appliances. Make sure the cord has no cuts or tears, and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Do not run a portable generator indoors, nor connect a portable generator to your home's electrical wiring or electrical panel. This can lead to serious injury or electrocution.
- **Beware of backfeeding:** Never try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This is extremely dangerous and can electrocute utility workers and even neighbors.
- **Work with an electrician:** The only recommended method to connect a generator to house wiring is by having a licensed electrician install a power transfer switch, in compliance with national, state, and local electrical codes.
- **Portable vs. permanent:** Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded or overheated, stressing the generator components, which can lead to generator failure. For power outages, permanently installed, stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to your home or business.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sce.com/outage-center/preparing-for-outages>