

Operating a Portable Generator Safely

- ◆ To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, never operate a generator indoors or in partially closed areas, even if you think there is enough ventilation. Opening windows and doors will not prevent CO from building to dangerous levels.
- ◆ Place the generator outdoors and away from windows, doors and vents where CO gas can enter the home.
- ◆ Keep the generator dry. Do not expose it to rain or place it on a wet surface. Operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like cover.
- ◆ If anyone in the area where a generator is being used develops a headache, lethargy, weakness, nausea, or muscle aches, get medical help immediately.
- ◆ To prevent electrical shock, dry your hands before touching the generator.
- ◆ Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty extension cord that is rated for outdoor use. Make sure the extension cord is also rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected load. Be sure the cord has no cuts or tears and that the plug has three prongs with a grounding pin.
- ◆ Never plug the generator into a wall outlet in a house or other circuit. This could electrocute utility workers and/or neighbors who might be servicing the electrical system.
- ◆ Keep generator fuel out of your home and away from fuel-burning appliances. Turn off the generator and let it cool before refueling. A fuel spill on hot engine parts could cause a fire.
- ◆ Always keep a fire extinguisher near the generator.
- ◆ Never attempt to repair a generator. Only a qualified technician should perform repairs.
- ◆ Do not remove or tamper with safety devices.
- ◆ Do not touch hot engine parts.
- ◆ Keep children away from the generator and the fuel containers.

