

DON'T GENERATE A DISASTER



A generator can be your best friend during a hurricane or prolonged power outage. But misused generators can be deadly - causing fires, electrocution or carbon monoxide poisoning.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR GENERATOR DOESN'T TURN AGAINST YOU:



Run your generator outdoors in a level, dry, ventilated area away from doors, windows and vents - preferably under a canopy, carport or open shed. Never use it indoors, in a crawlspace, basement or attached garage.



Connect your appliances to the generator using heavy duty, three-prong, outdoor extension cords. Never connect a portable generator to the house wiring - called "backfeeding." This practice could electrocute a neighbor or utility worker miles away.



If you install a permanent generator, have it installed and wired by a licensed and insured electrician.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Carbon monoxide is highly toxic, but it has no odor. Even if you can't smell fumes, if you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while the generator is running, get to fresh air immediately. If you use a generator, it's important to install a battery-powered carbon monoxide alarm in your home.



Never store gasoline inside your home, in a crawlspace or in a garage or basement if it contains a fuel-burning appliance. Gas vapors can be ignited by a pilot light or the arc of electric switches.



Total the wattage of all of the appliances and light fixtures you want to connect to the generator. The total should be less than the generator's stated maximum power output. If the total is more and all items are connected to the generator, the generator or a connected item may be damaged.



Before refueling, turn off all connected appliances and turn off the generator so it can cool before adding fuel. If fuel is spilled, it can create a fire on the hot engine parts. Always have a fire extinguisher nearby.



Don't touch the generator with wet hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Florida Department of Financial Services
1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236)

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