

# GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Homeowners with a backup power system usually have a portable or stationary generator. Those that live in wooded, rural settings may find a generator to be a good investment.

Cost, convenience, and emergency power are among the main factors that will determine the best system for you. Before investing in a generator, Great Lakes Energy members should consult a licensed electrician to determine the type of system and size that meets your needs. For safety reasons, a licensed electrician will install the system and ensure it complies with all applicable codes and regulations. Two common types of generators are:

## PORTABLE SYSTEMS

When restoring only the basic necessities during an emergency situation (heat, water, refrigeration, etc.) portable generators may be the optimal choice. Financially friendly, a portable generator is both less expensive to buy and install than a stationary system.

## STATIONARY SYSTEMS

For long term outages, a stationary system would be the ideal backup plan. Stationary systems are large enough to power an entire home for extended periods of time. They switch on automatically when an outage occurs, and shut off when power is restored.

The most important thing to consider when using a generator is **SAFETY**. Failure to be safe can result in:



**Fire.** Do not overload a generator, which can lead to overheating and a fire hazard. Do not refuel until the generator has cooled off. You could cause an explosion.



**Deadly Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.** Operate the generator outdoors and protect it from rain and other moisture. Invest in a nonflammable cover to keep it dry. The generator should be at least 25 feet away from the house and away from doors, windows and vents. Operating a generator in a garage can result in deadly buildup of carbon monoxide.



**Damage to Home Appliances and Home Electronics.** Serious electrical damage could result if power from the generator and Great Lakes Energy both flow into your home at the same time.



**Harm to Lineman or Others by Shock or Electrocution.** Power from the generator can flow back into the power lines endangering the lives of those working to restore your power. Downed power lines can become energized endangering family members and neighbors nearby. Always assume a downed power line is energized and keep clear.



**Do not connect a portable generator yourself to your home wiring.** Hire a licensed electrician to safely install a transfer switch. Meter bases equipped with a built-in transfer switch can be purchased from Great Lakes Energy. Contact us for more information. Properly ground the generator and keep it dry to avoid potentially fatal electric shocks.

For additional generator safety tips, visit [gtlakes.com/power-outages](http://gtlakes.com/power-outages). If you have a generator, please contact GLE at 888.485.2537 to let us know so we can note your account.