

How to use a **home generator** safely.



PGE works hard to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But occasionally, storms or other events knock out your power. That's when a portable, gas-powered home generator can be a convenient back-up — *if you use it safely.* Turn this card over to learn important generator safety rules.

Portland General Electric

Avoid deadly mistakes

- Always read and follow the generator manufacturer's instructions!
- Operate your portable generator **outside** in a **well-ventilated** area away from doors, windows and your garage. Otherwise, deadly, odorless carbon monoxide can be drawn inside. Install a **carbon monoxide detector** with battery back-up in your home.
- Use only an outdoor-rated, **grounded extension cord** – one with a GFCI is best. Make sure the generator is properly grounded, too.
- **Never "back feed."** Sometimes, a person might try to "doctor" an extension cord to plug



a generator into a regular household outlet, thinking this will power the whole house. This is extremely dangerous! Connecting a generator with a regular outlet can back feed electricity into the utility system and injure or kill unsuspecting utility workers. It can also ruin your wiring or start a fire. **Only connect individual appliances to the receptacle outlet of the generator.**



Find more information online:

PortlandGeneral.com/Outage

Or call the PGE Energy Experts:
1-800-722-9287.