

Hurricane Season Tips: Generator Safety

If you plan on using a generator during hurricane season, use these helpful tips to aid you in planning for safe operation.

WHAT TO DO

- **ALWAYS** test before hurricane season to ensure readiness when needed.
- **ALWAYS** follow manufacturer instructions, keeping them handy for easy access.
- **ALWAYS** keep the generator on a dry, level surface away from areas exposed to rain or flooding.
- **ALWAYS** operate generators in dry conditions and on dry surfaces under a tarp or other canopy-like structure.
- **ALWAYS** maintain a perimeter between 3 and 4 feet of open space around the generator while in use.
- **ALWAYS** use in a well ventilated location outside of buildings.
- **ALWAYS** position your generator at least 15 feet away from buildings to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **ALWAYS** ensure there is a tested and properly functioning carbon monoxide detector on hand for additional safety.
- **ALWAYS** store generator fuel in a proper receptacle with a label and use manufacturer recommended fuel.

- **ALWAYS** ensure there is a fully-charged dry chemical fire extinguisher nearby.
- **ALWAYS** use heavy-duty outdoor extension cords free of cuts or tears to plug appliances into the generator, or plug them in directly.

WHAT NOT TO DO

- **DO NOT** run a generator indoors or in a partially enclosed area, such as a garage.
- **DO NOT** enclose your generator under any circumstances.
- **DO NOT** open windows or vents in the path of the generator's exhaust while in use.
- **DO NOT** overload your generator as this could lead to a fire.
- **DO NOT** touch or work with a wet electrical cord and place cords safely to avoid tripping hazards.
- **DO NOT** attach your generator directly to your electrical main connections.
- **DO NOT** refill your generator while it is hot. First, shut off the generator and let it cool.

For more safety tips and to ensure you have the right insurance coverage in place, contact your broker and/or account manager.