Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electrical power is needed, like when the power goes out due to storms or you’re out camping.

PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

- Generators create high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas in their exhaust. Carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelled.
- Never use a generator in an enclosed area, like your home, garage, shed, camper, tent, boat, or cabin.
- Always run your generator outside, at least 20 feet from your home, camper, tent, etc., with exhaust hoses pointing away from people and structures.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Use battery-powered detectors when you are away from home and using any gas-powered tools.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

- Never plug the generator into a wall outlet. This is called “backfeeding” and can electrocute people.
- Keep the generator dry. Dry your hands before using a generator.
- Use the correct extension cord, one that is heavy-duty, specifically designed for outdoor use, and has a wattage rating that exceeds the total wattage of all devices plugged into it.
- Make sure electrical cords are in good condition, not frayed or crimped.

PREVENT FIRES

- Never store generator fuel in your home or near an ignition source.
- Before refueling a generator, turn it off and let it cool down.
- Always follow manufacturer instructions.