



Electric generators can keep your lights and appliances running during power outages- but they can also pose serious safety hazards if operated incorrectly. To ensure the safety of your family, neighbors and Paris BPU employees, read and follow the safety, maintenance and testing instructions in the generator's operating manual.

Transfer Switch

Plug appliances directly into the generator itself. Connecting the generator directly to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician, who will install a transfer switch that will keep the generator from feeding power back into Paris BPU's lines. If that happens, the power crews working to restore your electric service would be put at risk. In addition, if your generator is still hooked up when the power is restored, your generator and your household electrical system may be damaged as well.

Cords

Use heavy-duty extension cords from the generator. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Don't use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding. Make sure the cords from the generator don't present a tripping hazard. Don't run cords under rugs where heat might build up or cord damage may go unnoticed.

Ventilation & Air Flow

Never run an electric generator inside a building, especially in a building attached to a dwelling. Use portable generators outdoor in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, vents, and other building openings to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home. Also be sure to install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Other Considerations

- Never add fuel to a generator while it's running and avoid spilling fuel on hot components.
- Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation.
- Don't overload your generator. It should only be used when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Keep children away from generators at all times.