**Generator use and safety precautions**

When the power goes off, many residents turn to emergency genera­tors to power refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans and other appliances. If you use a generator, extreme cau­tion is required. While convenient and useful, generators can create hazards for homeowners and elec­tric utility workers. Always read and follow the manufacturer’s safety and operating instructions.

Carbon monoxide is a color­less, odorless and tasteless poison gas. It is a component of the ex­haust from the generator engine. The symptoms of exposure are subtle, but deadly. Never run your generator inside your home or ga­rage on in any other enclosed space. Inexpensive carbon monoxide detectors, similar to smoke alarms, are readily avail­able and recommended as an added safety precaution.

To avoid carbon monoxide poison­ing, never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes to the home.

To avoid electrocution, plug indi­vidual appliances into the genera­tor using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Do not oper­ate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the genera­tor. This will overload and damage the generator and possibly create a fire hazard.

If a generator is connected to the house wiring, the home must have a transfer switch installed by a li­censed electrician. A transfer switch connects your house to the gen­erator and disconnects it from the utility power. This prevents backfeeding, or energizing circuits out­side your home. Backfeeding most commonly occurs when a generator is connected directly to the electric panel or circuit in a home. Feeding power back into the utility system during an outage will energize the transformer serving the house and could pose a serious threat to crews working to restore power in the area who may not know they are working with an energized line.

Do not store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it’s run­ning. Gasoline and other flamma­ble liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass, safety containers. They should not be stored in a garage if a fuel-burning appliance is in the garage. The vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or electric arcs caused by turning on the lights. Avoid spilling fuel on hot components. Put out all flames or cigarettes when handling gaso­line. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Never attempt to refuel a portable generator while it is running.

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| **Item** | **Running Wattage** | **Starting Wattage** | **Item** | **Running Wattage** | **Starting Wattage** |
| Dishwasher, Hot Dry | 1450 | 1400 | Garage Door Opener ½ hp | 725 | 1400 |
| Coffee Maker | 1750 | 0 | Hair Dryers | 300-1200 | 0 |
| Electric Fry Pan | 1300 | 0 | Lights | As indicated on bulb |  |
| Refrigerator or Freezer | 700 | 2200 |
| Dehumidifier | 650 | 800 | Radio | 50 to 200 | 0 |
| Clothes Dryer Electric | 5750 | 1800 | Well Pump – 1/3 hp  1/2 hp | 800  1400 | 1300  2100 |
| Toaster 4 slice | 1650 | 0 |
| Automatic Washer | 1150 | 2300 | Sump Pump – 1/3 hp  1/2 hp | 800  1050 | 1300  2150 |
| Microwave Oven 625 watts | 625 | 800 |
| Electric Range 6-inch Element | 1500 |  | Television, Color | 300 | 0 |
| Iron | 1200 | 0 | Vacuum Cleaner | 800 | 0 |
| Computer | 720 | 720 | Air Conditioner 10,000 BTU  20,000 BTU  24,000 BTU  32,000 BTU  40,000 BTU | 1500  2500  3800  5000  6000 | 2200  3300  4950  6500  7800 |
| Water Heater | 4500 | 4500 |
| Fan 1/8 hp | 400 | 600 |
| Fan 1/4 hp | 650 | 1200 |
| Fan 1/2 hp | 1100 | 2400 |