

TOOLBOX TALKS

Portable Generators

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Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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TOPIC: Portable Generators

Major Risks

- Shocks and electrocutions can result when a generator is used improperly or another electrical system is accidentally energized.
- Generator exhaust can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Fires can result from improper fueling or inappropriate fuel storage. Never store fuel indoors.

Safe Practices

- Inspect portable generators for damage or loose fuel lines that may have been incurred during transportation or handling.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Maintain and operate portable generators in accordance with the manufacturer's use and safety instructions.
- Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure (home, office, or trailer) unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch. (Such a connection creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers.)
- Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords. Use undamaged heavy-duty extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged).
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Before refueling, shut down the generator.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. Many people have died from CO poisoning because their generator was not adequately ventilated.

- Never operate a generator in an enclosed area.
- Never place a generator outside near doors, windows, or vents.
- If you or someone else shows symptoms of CO poisoning (dizziness, headaches, nausea, tiredness) get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

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