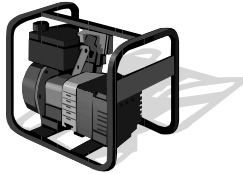


Florence Energy News

GENERATORS

The following information, developed by the American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®), and the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is provided to address questions about using a generator when disaster strikes.



Purchasing a Generator

If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is rated for the amount of power that you think you will need. Look at the labels on lighting appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment.

For lighting, the wattage of the light bulb indicates the power needed. Appliances and equipment usually have labels indicating power requirements on them. Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on. If your generator does not produce adequate power for all your needs, plan to stagger the operating times for various equipment.

If you cannot determine the amount of power that will be needed, ask an electrician to determine that for you. (If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, then you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.)

Using a Generator

The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator. Every year, people die in incidents related to portable generator use.

Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage, carport, basement, crawlspace, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. The CO from generators can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death, but CO **cannot be seen or smelled**. Even if you cannot smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY - DO NOT DELAY**.

Because you may have windows open to get fresh air while the power is out, be sure to place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors. To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect the generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.

It is a good idea to install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. If CO gas from the generator enters your home and poses a health risk, the alarm will sound to warn you. Test the battery frequently and replace when needed.

Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator. Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your local fire department for additional information about local regulations. Store the fuel outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected



area. Do not store it near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage. If the fuel is spilled or the container is not sealed properly, invisible vapors from the fuel can travel along the ground and can be ignited by the appliance's pilot light or by arcs from electric switches in the appliance.

Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding." **This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer.** It also bypasses some of the built-in household protection devices.



Future Considerations

The only recommended method to connect a generator to house wiring is by having a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch. This switch must be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC), which is published by the National Fire Protection Association, and all applicable state and local electrical codes. Call a qualified electrician to see if they can install the appropriate equipment.

For power outages, permanently installed stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to the home. Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded and lead to generator failure. Be sure to read instructions that come with the generator to make sure you operate it within its limitations for power output.

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NATURAL GAS GRILLS



Warm weather is just around the corner. It is time to crank up those grills and have some backyard barbecues. Do you not have a grill? Has yours seen better days, or are you just tired of running out of fuel in the middle of your party? Then the Florence Utilities Natural Gas Department has exactly what you need to start this season off right! The Florence Utilities Natural Gas Department sells, assembles, and installs Broil-Mate Natural Gas Grills. These powerful grills heat up to 600°F in only ten minutes. Listed below are the two grill models available through our department.

7168 Model: This model has a 50,000 BTU main burner with a 605 square inch cooking area. This model has a chrome warming rack, Accu-Temp Thermometer, and perma mold side shelves.

48577NG Model: This model has a 50,000 BTU main burner with a 605 square inch cooking area. This model is portable and comes on a cart. It also comes with a 12' hose with quick disconnect.

Both models have the following features:

- Rotary Ignition Systems
- Dual Level Porcelain Steel Cooking Grids
- Large H Type Stainless Steel Burners
- Drop Down Condiment Trays and many other features.

These durable grills have a limited 5 year warranty through the manufacturer. For more information on how to purchase your new Broil-Mate Natural Gas Grill, please contact the Florence Utilities Gas Department at **767-3430**.

March - April Calendar of Events

Mar. 1-April 12: Artistic Renderings of Youth
Location: Kennedy-Douglass Center
Hours: 9am - 4pm Monday - Friday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6379

March 9-10: Quilts by the River 2007
Quilt Show
Location: Edgemont United Methodist
Church Family Life Center
Hours: 10am - 6pm Fri. & 10am - 4pm Sat.
Admission: \$3
Contact: 757-1328, Judy

March 12-May 3: Paintings by Matt Welch
Location: Kennedy-Douglass Center
Hours: 9am - 4pm Monday - Friday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6379

March 23: Easter Bunny Arrival
Location: Regency Square Mall
Hours: 6pm
Admission: Free
Contact: 766-2176

March 24: Kids Fair
Location: Regency Square Mall
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Admission: Free
Contact: 766-2176

Now - April 13: AARP Tax Aide Program
Location: Varies
Hours: Varies
Admission: Free Service
Contact: 386-7831

April 28: Motorcycle Ride for Life/
Poker Run Proceeds to benefit
American Cancer Society
A & E Hospice/ A & E Medical
Contact: 764-6633, Rhonda

Sponsored by:
Contact:

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Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

With the longer days and warmer weather, people are spending more time outdoors. This is the perfect time of the year for grilling, and we have exactly what you need. We offer two models of Broil-Mate Natural Gas Grills. Additional details are on the back about these durable grills.

Severe weather is a common occurrence in the Shoals. Although it can strike at any time, it is most frequent in the spring and summer months between March and August. Severe weather may interrupt your electrical service. When this happens, many people use portable generators since they offer great benefits when outages affect the home. The article about generators inside explains how to use a generator safely and features to look for when you purchase a generator.

Make sure you look over the Calendar of Events section. It is packed with exciting upcoming events.

www.florenceutilities.com