



Office of Emergency Management



Cuyahoga County  
Together We Thrive

At-A-Glance

# Generator Safety

Portable electric generators can provide power to homes or businesses. Generators can safely power important electrical equipment such as portable heating units, computers, water pumps, freezers, refrigerators and lighting.

If you plan on using an emergency generator, it is essential to take safety precautions.

## When Using Your Generator...

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions before running a generator.
- Generator engines emit carbon monoxide. Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows, and vents.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running. Always store fuel outside of living areas.
- Allow the generator engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
- Never operate the generator near combustible materials.
- Only use grounded extension cords. Coiled cords can get extremely hot. Always uncoil cords and lay them in flat open locations.



## Plugging in Your Generator...

- Never plug a generator directly into a home outlet. If you are connecting a generator to a home electrical system, have a qualified electrician install a Power Transfer Switch.
- Generators produce powerful voltage. Never operate under wet conditions as water can get into the electrical outlets. You risk electrocution if the electrical panel gets wet.
- Keep generator dry. Operate on dry surface, dry hands before touching generator.
- Protect your generator from exposure to rain and snow.

## Did You Know?

When refueling generators, you should always use fresh fuel.

For additional information on generator safety, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



A Preparedness Resource from  
Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management  
P: 216-443-5700 | [ema@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:ema@cuyahogacounty.us)  
[Ready.cuyahogacounty.us](http://Ready.cuyahogacounty.us)

  
[@CuyahogaOEM](https://twitter.com/CuyahogaOEM)  
[Facebook.com/CuyahogaOEM](https://Facebook.com/CuyahogaOEM)