

safe backup power

operating tips for portable generators



taking responsibility

Individually, efficient use of energy brings benefits such as lower bills, improved comfort levels and a reduced personal impact on the environment.

Acting together, our individual choices add up – for the benefit of our community, our environment and our energy future. That's the power of working together.

As your community energy company, we are committed to sharing our experience and energy expertise. You can always count on us for:

- Answers to your energy questions.
- Energy efficiency information and advice.
- Help in evaluating energy-saving options.
- Assistance in finding energy-efficient products.

Safety first

Portable generators can play a pivotal role at home, at work and on the farm—providing backup electricity when and where it’s needed most. But, if used incorrectly, generators can also pose serious safety hazards. This booklet shares important tips for operating your generator safely, maintaining it properly and helping keep our repair crews out of harm’s way. For more information, visit mge.com or call us at 252-7117.

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Use generators safely

A portable generator provides electricity to run household appliances and farm or business equipment. But generators pose serious safety hazards if used incorrectly.

Never directly connect a portable generator to the home's wiring system. The electricity may flow onto MGE lines. People who touch a downed power line or crews working to repair the electric system could be injured.

When power is restored, the generator will be damaged. A professionally installed transfer switch is the ideal way to safely connect your home to generator power.

Generator operating tips

- Purchase a generator that has circuit breakers.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Use properly sized, three-prong extension cords that are in good condition to plug in electrical equipment or appliances. Make sure the cords do not become hot. Heat indicates an overload and must be corrected immediately by unplugging the cord.



- Keep extension cords on top of rugs and carpets to avoid heat buildup that could cause a fire.
- Plug in one piece of equipment at a time with the generator operating. Start with the item that needs the most electricity.
- Prioritize your needs. The greater the load on the generator, the more fuel it uses.
- Run the generator outside. It produces deadly carbon monoxide fumes.
- Operate the generator on a level surface to prevent engine damage.
- Keep the generator as clean and dry as possible.

Generator maintenance tips

- Keep the generator ready by testing it at least once a month.
- Charge the battery monthly with a trickle charger.
- Keep your fuel tank filled and use a fuel conditioner. An outage can occur at any time.
- Follow all codes pertaining to proper use and storage of fuel.

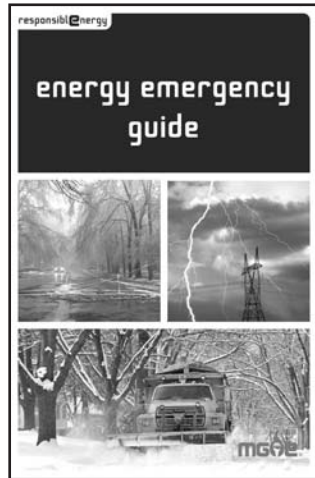
Don't put repair crews in danger

MGE crews work quickly to identify the cause of an outage and repair it. Don't put them or yourself in danger. Use the generator in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and electrical safety codes.



How to prepare for an energy emergency

Our *Energy Emergency Guide* offers more suggestions about how to be prepared for an electricity or natural gas outage. It includes information about hot and cold weather outages as well as how we restore power. For your copy, visit mge.com/brochures or call 252-7117.



listening. learning.

MGE takes responsibility to provide information and education to serve our customers and stakeholders. We educate customers today to help inform their decision making. We educate tomorrow's stakeholders so they can help plan our energy future.

Generators can pose serious safety hazards if used incorrectly.

Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's directions.


Working together we can make a difference.

Contact us for information about:

- Heating/Air-conditioning.
- Insulating/Weatherizing.
- Lighting.
- Other energy-related equipment.

Get more energy information at:

- mge.com.
- Home Energy Line 608-252-7117.
- Business Help Line 608-252-7007.
- 800-245-1125.

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your community energy company