

As Spring draws close, the events of **April 27, 2011** come to mind.

Are you prepared in case of weather events & other unexpected situations?



Power outages happen. Huntsville Utilities has an outstanding record for power restoration. Even so, your utility company cannot control the weather and other factors that may cause significant outages. With this in mind, Huntsville Utilities is providing you with information about **generator use** (inside) and on the back panel Huntsville Utilities introduces you to **Ready.gov**, the FEMA website designed to help the public prepare for emergency situations.

Thinking of Buying A Generator? Safe, Reliable Installation & Use is a Priority!

Improper installation and operation can lead to electrocution, carbon monoxide poisoning and even DEATH to members of your household and utility workers.

The residential use of generators to supply power during outages is on the increase. Huntsville Utilities is providing this information to help you operate your generator safely during such emergencies.

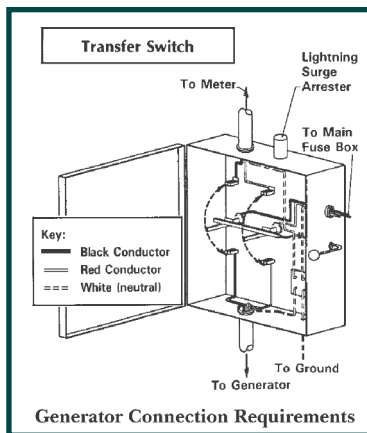
Portable generators can cause serious injury if not installed and used properly.

Portable generators are not designed to be plugged into a normal power outlet. Doing so can send power back to the power lines which may increase the 'backfeed' to thousands of volts, injuring utilities crewmen working on the lines far from your home.



Please visit our website at <http://www.hsvutil.org/residential/safety/generator-safety/> for more information.

A properly installed transfer switch will allow you to utilize the generator as a limited power source through your home's electrical system. An improperly installed generator is deadly.



The only safe way to hook up a generator to a house is to have a **licensed electrician install a transfer switch**. The switch prevents dangerous backfeeds and transfers the power from utility lines to the generator. The transfer switch should be near your circuit breaker box.

Do not use a generator indoors or in a garage. It produces Carbon Monoxide, a deadly, odorless gas. The generator should be in a dry, well-ventilated area, such as under a carport or in an open shed.

PLEASE contact a licensed electrician to determine the generator size & proper installation to meet your desired usage level safely.

Do not store gasoline indoors or try to refuel the generator while it is in use.

Know the output rating of your generator to keep from overloading it. Doing so may damage the appliances connected to the generator.

Preparing Makes Sense.

Visit Ready.gov.

Now's the Time.

**Resolve to
be READY** in 2013

Ready.gov



The events of April 27, 2011 brought new emphasis to our area about the need for emergency planning. FEMA and Homeland Security have developed a website, **Ready.gov**, to help anyone prepare.

- **Prepare a Kit of Emergency Supplies:** Do you have water & ready-to-eat food stored? How about medications & first aid supplies? A whistle to call for help and flashlights with extra batteries? Are there pets, infants or older family members to consider?

- **Prepare a Family Emergency Plan:** Do you have a plan on how to communicate if your family is not together when disaster strikes? Have you designated a meeting place or an out-of-town contact to help you reconnect?
- **Learn What Unexpected Events You Should Prepare For.** The threat to your normal lifestyle isn't just related to weather events. Epidemics, chemical spills and terrorist attacks are real possibilities for which you should be prepared.

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