



# Hurricane Joe

## **Generator Safety**

Some of us may want to take advantage of the Governor's tax free hurricane prep days. This is a good time to consider purchasing a generator for your home. Before you visit your local home center, look at the attached Emergency Generator Safety brochure. It may answer your question about size etc.

I cannot stress how potentially dangerous improper use of a generator can be, so here are some quick **rules** about the use of a generator.

- **DO NOT** connect a portable electric generator directly to your home wiring. This could cause the generator to back feed onto the power lines connected to your home. This creates a risk of electrocution to repair crews working on power lines sometimes blocks away from your home.
- **DO NOT** plug a portable electric generator into a regular household outlet. Connect only essential electrical equipment directly into the generator.
- **DO NOT** overload the generator. Choose electrical equipment essential to remaining comfortable while the power company works to restore your power. When purchasing a portable generator, choose one that produces enough power (watts) to cover the combination load of lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to it.
- **DO NOT** use just any old extension to attach appliances to the generator. Use outdoor rated cords with a wire gage adequate for the appliance load. If your cords become warm or hot to the touch during operations, they are not large enough to handle the load.
- **DO NOT** use a portable electric generator indoors or in an attached garage. Generators use motors that emit deadly carbon monoxide. Run the generator in a well-ventilated, dry area away from intakes into the home and protected from the rain. Install carbon monoxide alarms inside your home as a protection against the gas emitted from generators.
- **DO NOT** store the gasoline in close proximity to a running generator. Store your fuel away from the generator.
- **DO NOT** refuel a generator while it is running, shut it down and wait until it has cooled. A running generator will cause a flash fire

during refueling.

- **DO NOT** use a generator in or around standing water or in the rain.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

***Hurricane Joe***

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For additional information on the use of a portable generator, see;

From Sarasota County

<http://allhazards.scgov.net/PowerOutage.aspx>

From FPL

[http://www.fpl.com/storm/generator\\_safety.shtml](http://www.fpl.com/storm/generator_safety.shtml)