



KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Portable Generator Safety

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is needed and are commonly used in construction but there are associated hazards when using generators. Here are some tips ensure that workers using such equipment remain safe.

Shock & Electrocutation:

Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure unless a qualified electrician has properly installed the generator with a transfer switch.

Always plug directly into the generator with extension cords that are rated for the watts or amps required and never use underrated cords.

Use GFCIs and extension cords with built-in GFCI protection especially in wet conditions.

Make sure a generator is properly grounded and the connections are tight.

Keep generators dry and out of the elements to prevent shock hazards.

Fire Hazards:

Do not overload a generator; this can lead to overheating which can create a fire hazard.

Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool. Refilling a hot generator with gasoline, kerosene, etc can ignite the fuels if spilled on hot engine parts even if it has been shut off for a long period of time.

Keep fuels in a separate location away from the generator; transported and stored in approved containers that are vented and marked for their contents.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Make sure that the generator is adequately ventilated; do not place near doors, windows, and vents which could allow CO to enter and build up in work spaces.

Immediately evacuate the area and get to fresh air if you or others show symptoms of CO poisoning such as dizziness, headaches, nausea, and tiredness. Seek medical attention.

Noise & Vibration:

Keep portable generators as far away as possible from work areas and gathering spaces.

Wear hearing protection if working near a generator; the excessive noise and vibration could cause hearing loss.

For more information visit [OSHA Fact Sheet](#):

Signatures

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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