

More and more people are purchasing portable generators as a back-up power source.

While these appliances can provide alternative energy during power outages, portable generators can create electrical hazards if not properly installed, operated, and maintained.

The Facts About Portable Generators



**Use Your Power
Wisely!**



Click on www.ofm.gov.on.ca for more fire safety information.

Key Messages:

- ✓ Purchase generators with recognized approval labels. Make sure the unit has proper connection receptacles and circuit breakers.
- ✓ Purchase approved transfer devices if the generator is to be hooked up to the household electrical system.
- ✓ Hire a knowledgeable and licensed contractor to install the unit.
- ✓ Standby generator installations should be inspected by the Electrical Safety Authority prior to use.
- ✓ Make sure that generators are installed as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Portable generators should only be used outdoors and carefully located to ensure that exhaust fumes do not enter the home.
- ✓ Allow the generator to cool before re-fuelling. Refuel the generator outside, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Store fuel for the generator in approved containers, outside the home.



Office of the Fire Marshal ©2008
www.ofm.gov.on.ca

Fact

Installing combination CO/smoke alarms on every storey of the home will provide additional protection and peace-of-mind .

