

Power Up Your Tailgate

Tips for safe portable generator use

(Family Features) No matter the time of year, there are many situations in which you may find yourself in need of electricity. From weather-related emergencies that leave your home without power to tailgating, where electricity can add warmth and convenience, portable generators can help you keep the power on at all times.



“Portable generators make it more convenient to enjoy some of our favorite pastimes and ease the burden of unexpected power outages, but there are some risks to keep in mind,” said Susan Oregna, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers’ Association (PGMA). “Taking the appropriate safety precautions can help ensure that users fully appreciate the benefits of portable power.”

One of the greatest risks associated with portable generator use is carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a gas you cannot smell, see or taste. The engine exhaust from portable generators contains this gas, and people and animals exposed to excess levels of it may suffer fatal consequences.

Using portable generators safely and appropriately at all times can help avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. While enjoying pregame festivities, remember these tips:

- Never run a portable generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces, such as garages, porches, breezeways or tents, even if using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Carbon monoxide can build up and linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Always place a portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces, such as the tailgating area.
- Get to fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical attention if you feel sick, dizzy or weak.
- Bring along a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm and keep it close by at all times.
- Always refer to the generator owner’s manual for further information about safe operation and potential hazards.

When temporary or remote electric power is needed, portable generators can provide flexibility and comfort. When grid-supplied power fails, portable generators can provide reassuring light to a storm-darkened house, restore operation to necessary equipment and make it possible to use climate control devices such as fans and space heaters.

At the stadium, a portable generator can bring the comforts of home by powering a wide range of devices such as heaters, radios and fans while also helping fuel the fun with festive lighting and quick, easy grilling.

By learning how to properly operate your portable generator, you and your family can safely avoid the inconvenience of power outages and enjoy hours of fun before the big game. Learn more at takeyourgeneratoroutside.com.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images (people tailgating)