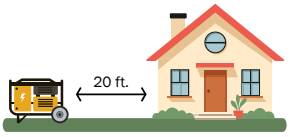
Generator Safety

Emergency Management
Simcoe County

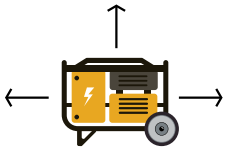
Most power outages are short in duration, but during severe storms or other emergencies they can last for hours, days, or in some cases even weeks. Power outages that occur during extreme heat or cold weather can pose additional risks to your health and safety. When used properly, generators can provide temporary power for essential appliances and devices until electricity is restored.

Using Generators Safely



Always keep generators at least **20 feet away** from your home.

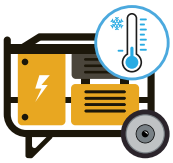
Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet of clear space** above and on all sides for ventilation. Keep generators away from doors, windows and vents.





Stock **additional fuel** for generators in approved containers and store outdoors in a safe place.

When refueling the generator, make sure to **turn the generator off and let cool** before adding additional fuel.





Ensure you **regularly test and service your generator** to guarantee functionality in the event of severe weather.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety

Placing the generator in an unsafe location or using the generator improperly could cause carbon monoxide to build up inside your home or garage. Carbon monoxide is colourless and odourless. Exposure to carbon monoxide is dangerous to your health and can cause carbon monoxide poisoning or even death.



Use **carbon monoxide detectors** throughout your home. Ensure that the alarms still function without electricity.

Be aware of **signs and symptoms** of carbon monoxide exposure such as:

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Tiredness





If you experience symptoms of Carbon Monoxide exposure or the Carbon Monoxide alarms sounding, **go outside immediately and call 911.**



Never operate a generator in an enclosed space. This includes your house and garage (even with the doors open).



In addition to generators, camp stoves, barbecues and propane heaters should never be used inside