

Generator safety is a life-and-death issue

These tips from CVPS are part of a year-long series to educate Vermonters about electrical safety and hazards. **SEPTEMBER 2010**

In Vermont's rugged, rural climate, generators can be a boon, but customers who use generators to deal with power outages must be sure to use them safely. Otherwise, the results could be far worse than the loss of electricity: injury or death to you, a utility worker or someone else.

Improperly operated generators can cause deadly exhaust fumes to accumulate. They can also feed electricity into utility lines, seriously injuring or electrocuting a line worker.

Improper installation can also damage your generator or appliances. Be sure to follow these safety guidelines:

- Read the owner's manual before starting your generator – every time.
- Operate the generator

outdoors to avoid deadly fumes. Never run a generator in or near any structure.

- When using a portable generator, plug appliances directly into it, or have the generator properly attached to your wiring by a qualified electrician, who will install a special transfer switch as required by the National Electrical Code. The switch will ensure that electricity from the generator won't feed into our electric lines.

- Never connect a portable generator to your home's main electrical panel; never plug it into an electrical outlet of your home.

For more safety tips, visit www.cvps.com/safety, and be sure to check out our newsletter, *Keeping Current*, which comes with your bill each month, for more from CVPS.



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