

PORTABLE GENERATOR

TBT Portable Generator 11-6-2023

Portable Generator Toolbox Talk

Working with portable generators can expose workers to carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless, and toxic gas. Follow these work practices to stay safe when using a portable generator.

- Inspect the generator for damage or loose fuel lines.
- Keep the generator dry and maintain and operate it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use a portable generator indoors, or in enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces and basements.
- Generators should be used outdoors, but never place generators near doors, windows, or ventilation shafts where CO can enter and build up.
- Have an established or designated area for the generator.
- It should be set up away from traffic areas.
- You do not want someone inadvertently moving it out of their way into yours. For example: relocating it under or directly up against your job trailer.
- Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Maintain the same clearance distances at a minimum for all combustible materials/liquids to safeguard against fires.

If you or others show signs of CO Poisoning, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Do not re-enter the area until it is determined to be safe by trained and properly equipped personnel.

Symptoms of CO poisoning

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tiredness
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness