TOOLBOX TALKS

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

☑ **MAJOR RISKS:**

- Shocks and electrocutions can result when a generator is used improperly or another electrical system is accidentally energized
- Generator exhaust can cause carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. Many people have died from CO poisoning because their generator was not adequately ventilated
- Fires can result from improper fueling or inappropriate fuel storage. Never store fuel indoors

☑ **SAFE PRACTICES:**

- Inspect portable generators for damage or loose fuel lines that may have been incurred during transportation or handling
- Keep the generator dry
- Maintain and operate portable generators in accordance with the manufacturer's use and safety instructions
- Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure (home, office or trailer) unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch. (Such a connection creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers.)
- Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords. Use undamaged heavy-duty extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged)
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Shut down the generator and allow the engine and generator to cool completely before refueling
- Never operate a generator in an enclosed area
- Never place a generator outside or near doors, windows or vents
- If you or someone else shows symptoms of CO poisoning (dizziness, headaches, nausea, tiredness) get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

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