



Standard Operating Procedures

Fire Prevention Services
Office of Campus Safety

The University of Texas at Austin

304 E. 24th Street, SER Suite 202, Austin, TX 78713

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SCOPING & APPLICATION

PORTABLE GENERATORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

CARBON MONOXIDE AND VENTILATION

- Never run a generator or any other internal combustion power source indoors or in partially enclosed areas such as parking garages.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from vehicles, windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces, temporary membrane structures and tents by a minimum of five feet (5 feet).
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be located such that exhaust fumes generated by the equipment cannot enter buildings through doorways, windows or any other openings.

GASOLINE, FUELING AND BURN SAFETY

- Fuel for generators and other internal combustion power sources SHALL NOT be stored within five feet (5 feet) of the internal combustion source.
- Fuel tanks for generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be of sufficient capacity to permit uninterrupted operation during normal operating hours. Refueling shall be conducted only when the equipment is not operational.

- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be allowed to cool entirely prior to adding fuel.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be protected from contact by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

ELECTROCUTION HAZARD AND ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARD

- Generators and other internal combustion power sources SHALL NOT be operated in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources pose a risk of shock and electrocution, especially when they are operated in wet conditions. In the event a generator or other internal combustion power source must be operated in wet conditions, protect the equipment from moisture to lessen the possibility of electrical shock/electrocution hazard.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be properly grounded.
- Where electrical extension cords are utilized, they shall be of the grounded type and shall be rated for the application. Coiled cords may become extremely hot. Always uncoil cords and lay them in flat, open locations.

GENERATOR AND OTHER INTERNAL COMBUSTION POWER SOURCE PLACEMENT AND OPERATION

- Allow a minimum of five feet (5 feet) clearance on all sides of generators and other internal combustion power sources when they are in operation.
- The area within five feet (5 feet) of generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be cleared of all debris and grass shall be a minimum of six inches (6 inches) from the equipment's exhaust system.
- When transporting, adjusting or making repairs to generators or other internal combustion power sources, disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
- Where tents are being used in conjunction with generators or other internal combustion power sources, the tent shall be UL approved and have a Fire Resistive Rating Label. Tents

used for protection of generators or other internal combustion power sources shall be completely open on all sides.

- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall only be operated on level surfaces where the equipment is not exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.