

# Portable Generator Safety

## TOOLBOX TALK #31



Supervisor/Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is needed for performing arts and live events. Hazards associated with generators include, but are not limited to:



- Adequate clearances from buildings, structures and air intakes are maintained with sufficient ventilation
- Protected from unauthorized personnel (i.e. areas should be guarded to prevent access from non-authorized individuals and the public)
- Generators become hot while running and remain hot for long periods after they have stopped, fuels can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts
  - Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool
  - Take appropriate precautions for refueling and fuel storage
  - Store fuels in accordance with labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
  - Prevent spills and negative impacts to the environment, remember to have appropriate spill kits on hand
- Ensure proper grounding in compliance with Technical Safety BC and the Canadian Electrical Code (and associated acts and regulations adopted in BC), consult the manufacturer's instructions for proper grounding methods
- Ensure appropriate fire suppression equipment is available to mitigate fire risks when using generators



Electrical incidents from improper installation or use of power



Carbon monoxide from a generators exhaust



Fires from improper refueling or storage of fuel



Moving parts



Noise and vibration hazards

When using generators ensure the following safety measures include, but are not limited to, ensuring:

- Only qualified and authorized individuals operate generators
- Manufacturer's instructions and manuals are followed and adhered to

### Attendees (attach sign-in sheet if needed)

| Name  | Initials |
|-------|----------|
| _____ | _____    |
| _____ | _____    |
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*Disclaimer: Actsafe's Toolbox Talks are intended as an informational resource for employers and supervisors to use to deliver a safety talk on a specific subject. A toolbox talk can be an effective way of refreshing workers' knowledge of safe work procedures and sharing information from more experienced workers. It's important to document your assessments on paper, and review them on a regular basis. If the requirements of a scene change, you may need to do a re-assessment. The information contained in Actsafe's products (including, but not limited to, our training materials and courses) is for educational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal or other advice to you.*

