



Dos And Donts Of Portable Generators

- ◆ In the context of incessant and relentless power shut downs, portable generators have become a necessity in Pakistan. Lately they have become a household item and it is of utmost importance to know “Dos and donts” associated with the operations of portable generators. Review some of the suggested safety tips below and see how safe your practices are around generators.
- ◆ Only run the engine outdoors with plenty of ventilation.
- ◆ Provide plenty of space for aspiration of fresh air and allow exhaust gases to be emitted away from the air-intake preventing any possibility of exhaust gases mixing up with the intake air.
- ◆ Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, an odorless gas that binds to hemoglobin in the blood, preventing oxygen from being transferred to the body. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, nausea and sleepiness.
- ◆ Always shut down the engine prior to making or removing connections.
- ◆ Never attempt to move a running generator.
- ◆ Always shut down the engine and allow it to cool before refueling.
- ◆ Never overfill the tank. Only fill within ½ inch from the top of the tank to allow for expansion.
- ◆ Make sure that hot exhaust gases are never directed toward anything flammable or explosive. Keep the generator at least 3 feet from any buildings or structures.
- ◆ Consider using a spark arrestor over the exhaust if operating in an area of dry grasses, brush or forest.
- ◆ Be sure you know how to stop the engine quickly in the event of an emergency.
- ◆ If possible, keep a fire extinguisher near the generator while it is in operation.
- ◆ Never attempt to connect power to a building unless a licensed electrician has installed an approved transfer switch.
- ◆ Test and reset the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter monthly.
- ◆ Remove all electrical connections and the negative lead to the battery before attempting any type of service to the generator.
- ◆ Always make sure the system is properly grounded before operating. Never connect the generator output neutral to the ground or frame.
- ◆ Know which parts of the generator become hot when running. These areas are not only burn hazards, but the spontaneous jerk from touching a hot object could cause your hand to contact a high voltage area resulting in shock.