A newsletter for customers of Klickitat PUD **Watts New**

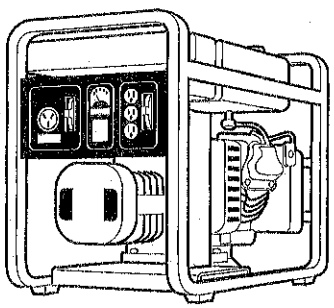
Be Safe With Your Generator

With winter coming soon, and possible power outages, you may be considering purchasing a generator for backup power. If so, here are some safety tips for you to consider:

Installation

Generators can be installed two ways: permanently or just for use during power outages. Either way, it is important you install the generator properly to protect electrical workers, your family and your property.

You risk damaging your generator if it is not properly installed. KPUD linemen use a protective grounding system that will damage an improperly installed generator. If your generator is improperly installed, it could burn out when power is restored to the electrical system and fed into your home.



Always check and follow state, local and national fire and electrical codes.

Because portable generators are an electrical installation, local permits may be required. You also must have the local electrical inspector inspect and approve your generator installation.

It is safest to have a licensed electrician install your generator switching system.

Isolation Switch

Permanently installed generators that switch on as soon as the power goes out require a control panel and transfer switch that automatically isolates the generator from the PUD's power supply, and turns off the generator when the power comes back on.

Without the required isolation switch, the generator's electrical energy could backfeed through the panel, meter and service wire to the transformer. The generator could backfeed up to 13,000 volts into the power lines, which could injure or kill PUD crews working on the line. It also could backfeed through a neighbor's transformer causing equipment damage.

Please contact a licensed electrical contractor to permanently install generators.

Emergency Circuit

A better, safer option than an isolation switch is an emergency circuit. This circuit is not connected to your house system. Therefore, it must be designed with a load capacity not to exceed the output of your portable generator.

Operating Your Generator

Gasoline or diesel powered generators produce potentially deadly levels of carbon monoxide.

Never run your generator indoors. These must be vented away from family members and pets.

Never fuel an electric generator when it is running or while you are smoking.

Keep children away from generators at all times. Many engine parts are hot during operation, and severe burns may result if touched.

Protect your generator from rainfall and other moisture sources to avoid the risk of electrocution.

Keep your generator clean and in good running order. Dust and dirt accumulation can cause overheating.

All generators operate differently and have safety and maintenance requirements. Consult your operator's manual.

Always store the gasoline and/or diesel for your generator in approved containers away from children.

KPUD Policy on Parallel Operation of Customer Generation

Protective devices such as relays and circuit breakers must be installed at a location where a customer desires to generate electricity in parallel with the PUD's electric system.

These devices promptly remove the infeed from the customer's generation whenever a fault occurs. This protects the general public and KPUD personnel from damage due to electric fault currents produced by the customer's generator.

All protective devices will be specified by KPUD.

All customer generators larger than 25 kilovolt-amps (kva) must be three-phase generators connected to three-phase circuits.

Single-phase generators less than 25 kva may be connected in parallel with KPUD's system.

KPUD will not assume any responsibility for protection of the customer's generator or of any other portion of the customer's electrical equipment.

The customer is fully responsible for his equipment in such a manner that faults or other disturbances on KPUD's system do not cause damage to the customer's equipment.

The customer shall be responsible for all costs resulting from the additional equipment that must be installed to allow for parallel generation. ■