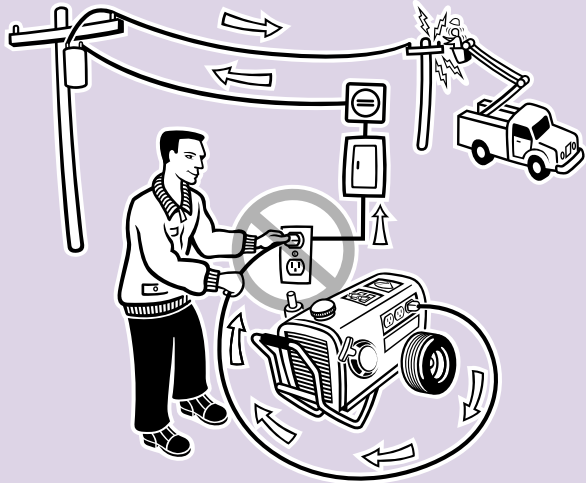


A generator's biggest danger: **BACKFEED**



WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT, it is tempting to fire up a portable generator and plug it into a wall outlet in your home. This is a potentially fatal move, unless you first disconnect from the utility's electric system. A working generator plugged into a wall outlet can feed electricity into power lines that utility crews presume aren't energized. A lineman working to restore electricity service can be seriously injured or killed by this "backfeed."

(Other Things to Consider continued)

Noise: This is probably as big a concern to your neighbors as it is to you. Gasoline-powered generators have decibel ratings, and the lower the rating the quieter the generator. Try to position the generator outside to shield its noise as best you can.

Vancouver Service Center:
1200 Fort Vancouver Way
P.O. Box 8900
Vancouver, Washington 98668

Orchards Service Center:
8600 NE 117th Avenue
Orchards, Washington 98662

Internet home page:
www.clarkpublicutilities.com

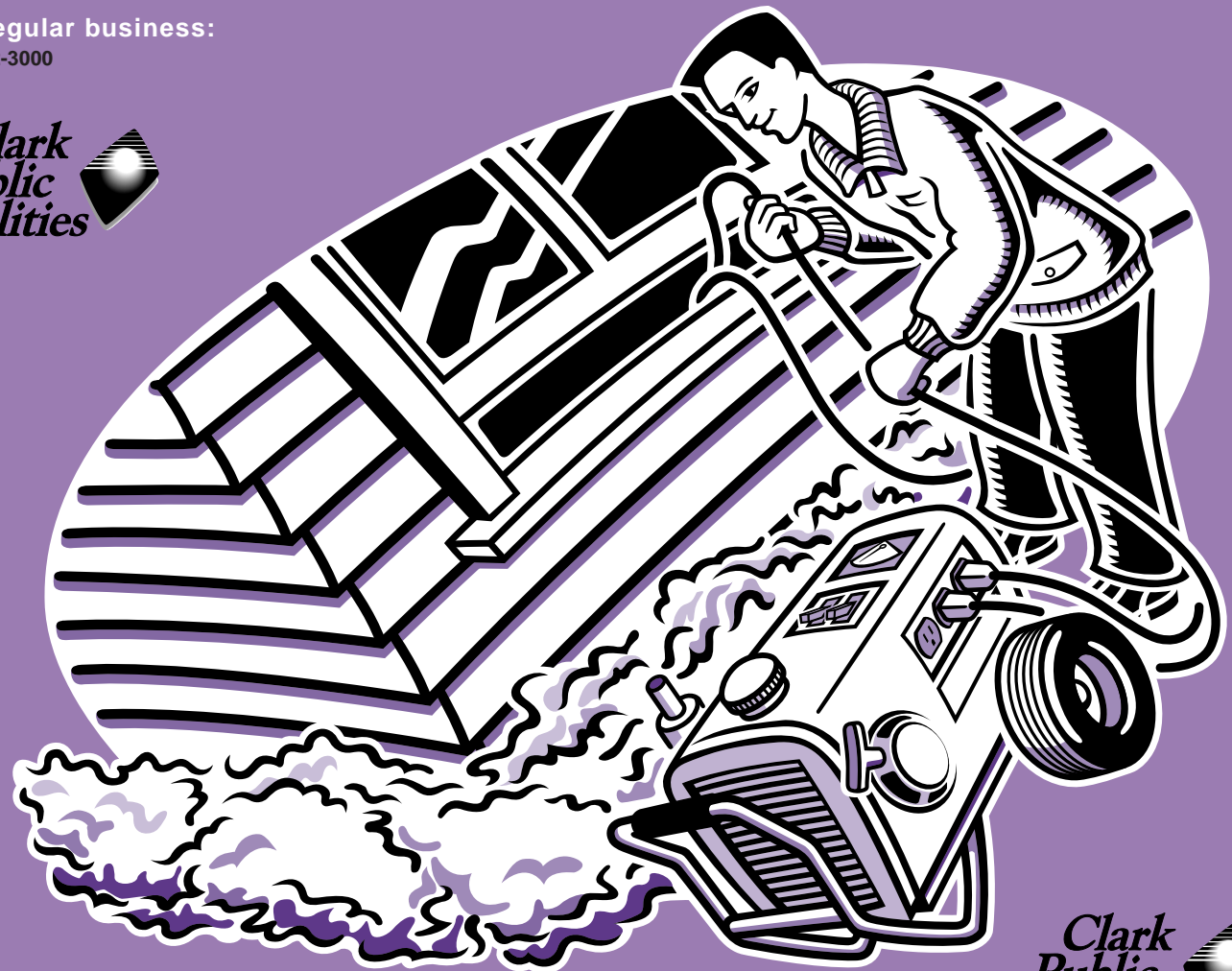
E-mail:
mailbox@clarkpud.com

For regular business:
360-992-3000

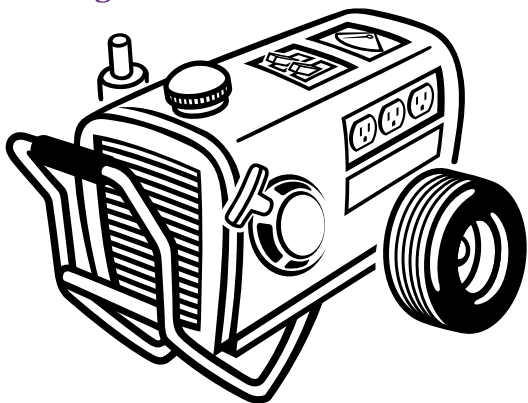


STANDBY ELECTRIC GENERATORS

Safety tips for installation
and operation



Standby electricity generators have long been installed in places like hospitals that can't afford to suffer a lengthy power outage. But today, many people also are installing generators in homes and businesses to keep important equipment running if the power goes out. We want to make sure if you buy a generator you know how to install it correctly and operate it safely. After you've read this brochure, we encourage you to talk with electrical suppliers and contractors about your options. Most vendors are familiar with the utility's safety requirements for standby generation and they can help you select the best equipment for your generating needs.



PORTABLE GENERATORS

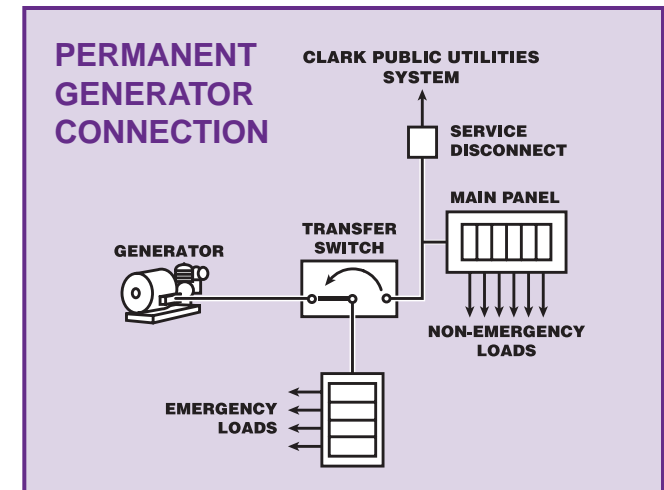
Portable generators are the least expensive alternative for emergency power, particularly if you need 5,000 watts of electricity or less. Because of the fumes they produce, these generators always should be located outside. Generators usually are powered by gasoline and can be moved from place to place to provide emergency electricity to particular appliances or other equipment.

For example, if the power goes out and you want to keep your refrigerator operating, you can fire up your generator outside and plug the refrigerator into it, either with the appliance cord or with an extension cord. It is best to use an extension cord that's approved for outdoor use and has three wires, one of which is grounded.

PERMANENT GENERATORS

You also can wire a generator directly into the electrical system of your home. This is a more expensive option and one that requires the help of an electrician. Permanent generators probably are worth the extra expense if you want enough emergency electricity to keep several appliances operating and if you expect to have to use the generator fairly frequently. The installation of a permanent generator must be in compliance with the National Electric Code and codes of local enforcing authorities. You can get code information from state electrical inspectors at the Washington Department of Labor and Industries office in Vancouver at 360-896-2360. Your generator supplier may not have all the necessary code information, but the electrical contractor installing the generator should comply with all existing codes.

A permanent generator should include a "transfer switch," which prevents power from the generator from feeding into utility lines. This transfer switch must be a "break before make" type — that means the connection to the utility power system will be cut off before the



generator starts to produce power. Please note that an electrical permit is needed prior to installing a permanent generator. **We strongly advise you to hire an electrician if you're installing a permanent generator in your home.**

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Power and reliability: How much emergency power do you need? How often do you think you'll need it? Will it be used for anything other than an emergency? Answering these questions will help you choose the size and type of generator you should buy and whether you should shop for a less expensive version or a top-of-the-line model.

Fumes: Generators must be placed in well-ventilated areas outside, away from windows, doors or ventilation intakes that could allow exhaust fumes into your home.

Fuel and oil: If you expect long, unattended operation of your generator, check that fuel capacity and low-oil protection features are adequate for extended use.

For an additional charge, most generators can be converted to the fuel of your choice.

(continued)

ELECTRIC•GENERATORS