

Environmental Health and Safety Office (EH&S)

Portable Generator Safety

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide safety guidance to those persons employing the use of portable generators at the University of Texas at Arlington main and satellite campuses. The use of portable generators is integral to activities such as tailgating during sporting events, mobile food trucks, etc. Wrongful use of portable generators carry unintended hazards described below.

2. Applicable To

This document is applicable to any person employing a portable generator at UTA main and satellite campuses.

3. Generator Hazards

- Shocks and electrocution from improper use of power or accidentally energizing other electrical systems
- Carbon monoxide from exhaust
- Fires from improperly refueling a generator or inappropriately storing the fuel for a generator-
- Noise and vibration hazards.

4. Generator Safety Tips

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions before operating a generator.
- Portable generators should not be fueled while running and any fuel should be stored in a UL listed safety can.
- Never operate the generator near combustible material.
- Additional fuel (gasoline or diesel) must be kept a minimum of 10 feet from the generator.
- Generators are not allowed within 50 feet of campus buildings and other designated no-grill areas, which includes parking decks.
- Never operate under wet conditions. Take precautions to protect your generator and electrical cords from exposure to rain and puddles.
- If you are using extension cords, be sure they are UL listed, have a grounding pin, and are rated for the application. Also, be mindful where you run your extension cords to make sure they are not creating a trip hazard. No excessive amperage draws, or daisy chains of receptacles permitted. Heavy-duty outdoor extension cords are required.

5. Review

Procedure review will be performed annually or as needed.