



# US Army Reserve Safety Awareness



## Use of Portable Power Generator During and After Power Outages



### **SUMMARY:**

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is needed, and are commonly used during cleanup and recovery efforts following disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Relying on generators during power outages could be putting themselves and their families at risk of fire, explosion, electrocution and/or carbon monoxide poisoning. Some of hazards associated with the use of generators listed below provides helpful information to ensure the safe use of the equipment. Always follow manufacturer recommendations. Failure to observe the manufacturer warning, cautions and recommendations could result in severe personal injury or death.

### **HAZARDS ASSOCIATED:**

- High voltage is produced when this generator set is in operation.
- Never attempt to start the generator set if it is not properly grounded.
- Never attempt to connect or disconnect load cables while the generator is running.
- The fuels in generator set are highly explosive. Do not smoke or use open flame when performing maintenance.
- Hot fueling of generators while they are operating presents a safety hazard and should not be attempted.
- Exhaust discharge contains deadly gases. Do not operate generator set in enclosed area unless exhaust discharge is properly vented outside. Severe personal injury or death due to carbon monoxide poisoning could result.
- Avoid contacting metal items with bare skin in extreme cold weather.
- If equipped: Battery acid will cause burns to unprotected skin. Batteries give off flammable gas and explosion.