TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
Inspection Department
40 South Street
Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
Tel. (508) 543-1206 / Fax. (508) 543-6278

TIPS FOR USING GENERATORS DURING POWER OUTAGES

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using a generator.

- Always use the generator outdoors, away from doors and windows. Carbon Monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly accumulate indoors.

- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator directly into household wiring, a practice known as "backfeeding." This is extremely dangerous and presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices which may damage appliances and household wiring. Appliances should be plugged in directly to the generator to avoid backfeeding.

- If the generator is intended to be used as a secondary power source for the home it must be wired correctly to avoid backfeeding. Installation of a separate electrical panel with proper circuitry is required. Fire and Electrical codes require installation of a generator as a secondary power source to be done by a Massachusetts licensed electrician after obtaining an Electrical Permit to perform the installation.

- If the generator is powered by propane or natural gas, it must be installed by a licensed gasfitter after obtaining a Gas Permit to perform the installation. If the generator is powered by liquid fuel such as gasoline, the fuel should be stored in approved storage containers. Containers should be stored away from the house.

- Operate the generator occasionally to avoid gumming up of the engine. Check the oil level and always use fresh fuel. This will assure you that the generator will operate properly when needed for an emergency power outage.

Please contact the Foxborough Inspections Dept. if you require additional information on the use of generators.