*Safety Matters*

**Use generators properly to keep everyone safe**

When properly installed and operated, generators offer a safe and convenient means of powering equipment when electricity is unavailable during a storm outage.

But an improperly installed generator can create dangerous "back feeding" onto the grid. When this occurs, the power lines become energized by the generator, placing nearby utility line workers who are trying to restore power at risk of electrocution.

There are two typical types of generators: permanent and portable. To operate either type safely, you must keep the generators’ power and the electric grid isolated from each other.

A properly installed permanent generator with a transfer switch will automatically isolate itself from the grid. The transfer switch allows power to be fed from only one source at a time. **(Co-op)** is glad to advise how to install it properly.

A portable generator is isolated by switching the main breaker off in your home’s service panel prior to starting the generator.

Always read and follow your operator manual and never modify the generator in anyway. It’s also import to know how to shut a portable generator off quickly in case of an emergency.

Keep your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow. A generator should not be used inside a home or an attached garage because improper ventilation can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

Never plug the generator directly into an interior outlet. This can cause back feeding on nearby lines and threaten the safety to nearby line crews. Be sure to ground the generator according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Always turn off the power at the main circuit breaker before connecting appliances to the generator. Use heavy duty electric cords designed for outdoor use to connect appliances and don’t overload the system.

Follow proper re-fueling practices by first turning a generator off, and always allow the machine to cool before adding gasoline or diesel.

Following the rules keeps **(co-op)** line-workers, your family and everyone safe.