

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Beat The Heat: How Personal Generators Can Help During Hot Weather

(NAPSA)—High temperatures and sticky humidity can make anyone uncomfortable. So what happens if the power goes out or a rolling blackout hits your area? Understanding the strains on the power grid in your area and some simple planning can help you avoid this year's sweltering heat.

Power outages have many causes during bouts of warm weather. More common in recent years, rolling blackouts occur when local authorities shut off power in certain areas because insufficient resources are available to meet high energy demands. Brownouts, where the available electricity voltage is reduced instead of cut off altogether, can also occur.

And don't forget about Mother Nature—power outages also occur during severe thunderstorms or hurricanes. And overall higher-than-normal temperatures have caused major strains on the power grid over the past few years, causing full power outages across the country.

"The heat puts a major strain on the energy grid and can leave some people without power," said Colin Iwasa, power equipment sales manager at Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. "The best way to combat those outages and guarantee that you'll always be comfortable in the heat is by getting your own portable generator."

New lines of portable generators are compact and quiet enough for use around the home; many families invest in generators as part of their personal emergency supply. Having a generator easily accessible means you can quickly



A lightweight generator can power a window fan, coffee maker and blender on one tank of gasoline.

get enough power to run fans, refrigerators and even small air conditioners—saving your family, pets and yourself from the effects of possible heatstroke.

Generators designed for home use come in a variety of sizes and capabilities. The lightweight and powerful EF1000iS and EF2400iS models by Yamaha are among the best for emergency preparedness. Yamaha models are also known for their quiet running sound, something you'll appreciate when all your windows are open in the sticky summer months.

Don't be fooled by its size—the 28-pound EF1000iS is quiet, durable and the easiest to transport. It can power a window fan, coffeemaker and a blender, all at the same time—and can run up to 12 hours continuously on a full gas tank. A little beefier, the EF2400iS weighs 70 pounds, runs almost silently and produces 2,400 watts of maximum power—it can power

all the previously mentioned appliances plus a microwave oven and small refrigerator.

Don't rely solely on your generator for help. Yamaha recommends the following tips for dealing with power outages:

- Turn off or disconnect any appliances or electronics you were using when the power went off; random spikes in energy may occur when the power comes back on and can damage computers and motors.
- Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible.
- Eliminate unnecessary travel—traffic signals will go out during outages, causing additional congestion.
- Take steps to remain cool. Wear lightweight clothing and move to the lowest level of your home.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be sure to leave fresh water out for your pets.

Remember to enforce all safety measures when using your generator. Never run your generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas to avoid carbon monoxide buildup; installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home is a good precaution as well. Read the manufacturer's guide to ensure safe operation, and do not store flammable liquids like fuel or oil indoors or near the generator.

For more information on portable generator safety and appropriate models for your needs, please visit www.yamahamotor.com.