

SAFETY SENSE

Preparing To Weather Seasonal Storms

(NAPSA)—Taking time now to prep for power outages during bad weather and rolling blackouts could help keep your family safe.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that power outages cause numerous risks, including illness from food-borne bacteria, the risk of fire from candle use and the risk of heat stroke or hypothermia in severe hot or cold weather.

And, the power goes out more than some might expect. From September 2006 to September 2007 alone, the U.S. Department of Energy reported that more than 11 million people were affected by weather-related or rolling black-out power outages. Fortunately, preparing for power outages can be simple with a few tips:

Keep The Lights On

Consider installing a standby power generator that automatically comes on when the power goes out.

While portable generators do supply power, an automatic standby generator produces a higher quality of electricity. It operates automatically and runs a weekly self-test to ensure proper response. Also, there are no extension cords to plug in, no gas tanks to fill and, when properly installed, no carbon dioxide threat. In fact, the American Red Cross says that a permanently installed stationary generator is better suited than a portable generator for providing backup power to a home.

For instance, the new, low-cost Guardian 20 kilowatt (kW) unit from Generac Power Systems, Inc. is fueled by natural or propane gas and offers the highest output of any generator of its kind.



Bright Idea—standby power generators automatically turn on when the power goes out.

When equipped with Generac's Power Manager LTS panel, the generator can handle all circuits, including central air, without shutting off other circuits. Plus, the unit's power quality allows for safe operation of sensitive electronic equipment.

The Guardian air-cooled line comes in four additional models with ratings of 8, 10, 14 and 17 kW.

Plan Ahead

Have an emergency plan developed before bad weather strikes. Choose a designated area where the family can meet and remember to have an out-of-area contact person to call to pass messages to family and friends.

It's a good idea to have an emergency kit as well. Include first-aid ointment and bandages, pain relievers and extra medication that you or a family member might need. Also, keep a radio handy and enough bottled water to last a week.

For more information, visit www.GuardianGenerators.com.