



**San Rafael Fire Department**  
**1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 345, San Rafael, CA 94903**  
**Phone: (415) 485-3308 Fax (415) 453-1627**



## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

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<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/fire/>

### **Fire Prevention Tips** **Portable Emergency Generators**

10 tips for the use of portable, gas-powered emergency generator equipment:

1. Store flammable liquids only in D.O.T. and OSHA approved safety containers, in a well-ventilated environment and not in any space that contains gas appliances such as water heaters and furnaces, or any device that creates a spark.
2. Approved safety containers can be 5 gallons maximum for a maximum storage of 10 gallons total. Any greater amount requires that the approved containers be stored in an approved flammable liquid storage cabinet. With an approved cabinet, a maximum of 60 gallons can be stored.
3. Never add fuel to a running emergency generator. Shut the generator down and let it cool for a minimum of 15 minutes.
4. Keep generators dry to avoid the risk of electrocution.
5. Position the generator on a clean, dry flat surface.
6. Only use emergency generators outdoors a minimum of 15 feet from structures. Ensure any building openings such as windows and doors are not downwind from the generator.
7. Ensure that all power cords are heavy duty and have no damage or exposed wiring.
8. Ensure you have working battery operated smoke detectors and a carbon monoxide detector properly located in the residence. If detection equipment is electric, ensure each device has battery backup.
9. Turn the generator off at night. Foods in the refrigerator and freezer will remain safe as long as doors are not opened.
10. Ensure there is a working fire extinguisher nearby with a 2A 20BC rating.