

Fall into Outage Preparedness

What a beautiful fall we've had. The leaves are once again dazzling with their colors, although I always wish the spectacular beauty would last just a couple of weeks longer. However, as the leaves fall, and the warm days seem to dwindle away, we are reminded that winter is coming.

We had a great annual meeting this year at Delaware Academy, and I so greatly appreciate all the members who showed up and supported their cooperative. I was especially excited to give away some UPS devices, or Uninterruptible Power Supplies, as door prizes. These handy backup batteries can help carry you through minor power outages, by supplying backup power to your smaller devices. Many models also offer surge protection and other benefits, so shop around for the features you like. If you visit our website, you can find links to some models we've tested: www.dce.coop/storm-outage-tips-center

So, as we head into this winter season, please stay safe and warm. In this issue, we offer tips and advice on winter preparedness, and while we always work to keep the power on, or get it back on quickly if we have an outage, it is also always a great idea to be prepared.

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom



New Lobby Hours: starting November 1st

8:00am — 4:00pm

Phone hours with DCEC staff will continue to be from 7:30am — 4:00pm

Come into our lobby to see our Generlink and UPS displays. We look forward to continuing to educate our members on how to best prepare for outages.

Don't forget to pick up your 2024 pocket calendar!



In the event of an outage, please call our outage line at: (607)746-9283 or report on-line through: SmartHub.



Staying Safe Until Power is Restored



How long it takes to get your power restored depends on:

- the extent of the storm's destruction 
- the number of outages **#?**
- when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas 



Stay safe until we can restore power to you.

Residential Generators

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

INSTALLATION TYPE	PRICE	OPERATION ¹	CAPACITY	LENGTH OF OPERATION ¹
permanent	expensive	automatic	whole house	can be indefinite
portable	more affordable	manual	typically partial ²	depends on fuel tank size



¹ Permanent generators start upon loss of grid power. They also exercise themselves automatically.
² Frequently powered: refrigerator, pumps (well, sump, septic), furnace, some lights, stove.
³ Permanent generators use propane or natural gas, portable use gasoline. Permanent models offer significantly longer operating times.

Image of portable generator provided by SafeElectricity.org

Generlink Transfer Switches available for purchase at our office



- * Plugs into 200 amp meter socket w/ 20 ft cord to connect to Generator
- * Built in surge protector
- * Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator

For more information or to confirm compatibility, call DCEC at (607)746-2341

A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.

RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... rarely lose power.

Recreational Inverter

Up to 2,000 watts
 Lightweight, about 60 pounds
 Quiet, easy to store
 Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

Midsized Inverter

Up to 3,500 watts
 Weighs up to 150 pounds
 Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... occasionally lose power.
 Transfer switch required.

Portable Generators and Large Inverters

Up to 7,500 watts
 Weighs about 300 pounds
 Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more
 Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... frequently lose power.
 Transfer switch required.

Home Standby

Up to 20,000 watts
 Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage
 Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)
 Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane
 Recommended if you frequently lose power.

SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community. Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: Consumer Reports

If an outage is going to be long-term, get to a safe place with power, such as a family member or friend's house. If it's going to be a short-term interruption, you may be able to stay at home. If so, the following list of items may prove to be useful:

- fully-charged, battery powered lantern & flashlights
- extra blankets & winter weather clothing as the temperature in the house drops; sleeping bags are also a good option for a chilly house
- a gallon of potable water for each family member per day
- plenty of non-perishable food items for your family
- at least a 3-day supply of both over-the-counter medicines and prescription medications on hand at all times
- fully charged cell phone and devices at all times prior to a storm event; turn off the phones when not in use to preserve the battery power

