

Generator Safety Tips

The spring and summer storm season is upon us and for some of you, this means installing or using a generator. The purchase and installation of a generator is an important and serious decision. Properly done, you gain peace of mind knowing your family can ride out an outage with some degree of comfort. But an incorrectly implemented generator can become deadly to you, your family, your neighbors and your electric cooperative's employees.

Here are some tips for using generators in your home:

- If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents electricity from leaving your generator and going back onto the utility's equipment, where it could be dangerous, even deadly, to a lineman or others near downed power lines. Have a licensed electrician install a transfer switch to prevent this issue, known as backfeeding electricity.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and that the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Be aware that generators produce carbon monoxide.
- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never fuel a generator while it is operating, and do not touch it with wet hands.

Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety. Hiring a licensed contractor is recommended.

Please let us know if you have a generator.

If you recently installed a generator or if you've had one for a while and haven't notified us, please call PIE&G at 800-423-6634. We will add a note to your account that will make our crews aware of your equipment prior to making repairs.

Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op A Special Board Meeting is set for June 23, 9:00 a.m.*

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on June 23, 2020, which will be held via teleconference.* The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Review and approval of the 2019 Electric Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) analysis;
2. Consider revisions to the cooperative's Electric Rate Tariffs to accommodate provisions for Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI);
3. Consider revisions to the cooperative's Aid to Construction Fees and Policies;
4. Consider revisions to the cooperative's Special Charges to accommodate provisions for Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI);
5. Consideration of revisions to the cooperative's billing rules.

*At press time, Gov. Whitmer's Executive Order (EO) 2020-21 "Stay Home, Stay Safe" is in effect. If EO 2020-21 is not lifted by June 23, the meeting will be held via teleconference. If, however, the Governor's executive order is lifted by June 23, the meeting will be held "in person" at 19831 M68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan. Members are asked to come to the cooperative lobby by 8:45 a.m. and request to speak to the board; staff will direct members to the meeting room. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board president, but members are asked to keep comments to less than five minutes.

Notices of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by first-class mail or by publication in Michigan Country Lines at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op at 800-423-6634 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling Chief Executive Officer Thomas Sobek at 800-423-6634, or by email at tsobek@pieg.com.