



Transmission & Distribution Services

Cass County Electric Cooperative

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Winter Storm Preparedness – Standby Generators

With a severe winter storm bearing down on North Dakota, here are some safety tips to consider when preparing your home or farm for safe keeping during a storm in the event of a power outage.

Standby Power Systems: If you have a standby electrical generator, be sure it's ready to go.

- Check fluid levels (oil, coolant, gas/fuel); make sure it has been started recently and ready to run.
- Make sure you have the proper electrical connections for your generator. Always use a double throw switch when connecting a generator to your home electrical circuit. If you are using a portable generator, you should have extension cords of proper length to reach the appliance you want to operate with the generator located outdoors.
- Never connect a generator into a home electrical service using a 'reverse plug', such as into a stove or dryer outlet. This is an extreme safety hazard for you and the electric utility.
- Always make sure you run a generator where this adequate ventilation. NEVER operate a generator inside the home or garage. The engine produces the deadly gas carbon monoxide which is hazardous to your health.
- You should provide some form of protection from snow and wind for the generator. When running a generator, check it routinely for proper operation; keep snow away from the unit, especially around the air intake or filter. When refueling a generator, be sure to turn it off. Be careful of hot surfaces when refueling!
- If you have any questions about connecting a standby generator correctly, call an electrician or your electric utility.