

# Generator and Chain Saw Safety



## PURCHASING A GENERATOR

- If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is listed with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM)
- Look at the labels on lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment. If you don't know, ask an electrician
- For lighting, the wattage of the light bulb indicates the power needed
- Appliances and equipment usually have labels indicating power requirements on them
- Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on. If not, plan to stagger the operating times

## USING A GENERATOR

- Follow the directions supplied with the generator
- Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage
- Adequate ventilation is necessary, and proper refueling practices as described in the owner's manual must be followed
- It is a good idea to install one or more carbon monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home (following manufacturer's installation directions). If CO gas

from the generator enters your home and poses a health risk, the alarm will sound to warn you. Many home fires and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred from using a generator improperly

- Be sure to let the generator cool before refueling
- Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator
- Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your local fire department for additional information about local regulations
- Store fuel for the generator outside in a locked shed or other protected area. Do not store fuel in a garage or anywhere inside a home as vapors can be released that may cause illness and are a potential fire or explosion hazard

## **NEVER HOOK UP A GENERATOR DIRECTLY TO A HOME'S WIRING**

- Home-use (nonindustrial) generators do not supply enough amperage to supply sufficient power for today's homes
- Unless your home's power supply was installed with a disconnect to the main power feeding lines, power you put into your home from a generator could backfeed into the main line and cause safety problems for the electrical utility company, your neighbors or yourself

- Backfeeding is supplying electrical power from a generator at the residence into the incoming utility lines. Simply connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and backfeeding power is an unsafe method to supply a building during a utility outage

## **CHAIN SAW SAFETY**

- Be sure to wear proper protective clothing including face and eye protection, gloves, long pants and safety shoes
- Review your owner's manual to reduce chain saw kickback
- Make sure chain brake, catcher, safety throttle switch, on/off switch and spark arrester are all working properly
- Adjust your carburetor properly
- Refuel chain saw only when engine is cool
- Have several commercially sharpened saw chains to match your chain saw and bar
- Do not attempt to cut down a dangerously broken tree yourself
- Turn off chain saw to carry it
- Never cut when tired or alone
- Use a chain saw only on ground level, never on a ladder or in a tree
- When cutting down a tree, make sure everyone is at least two tree lengths away and that you have a preplanned escape route
- **WATCH OUT FOR HAZARDS!**