GUAM POWER AUTHORITY
ATURIDÅT ILEKTRESEDÅT GUÅHAN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADVISORY TO THE PUBLIC
Get Ready and Plan Ahead, Tips from GPA - Tropical Depression 29W

(Fadian, Mangilao) - Guam Power Authority (GPA) advises the public that high winds can cause trees and branches to fall. Please look around your property, and remove damaged trees and overhanging branches to keep you, your property, and power lines safe.

Outdoor items such as lawn furniture, canopies, and garbage cans can become projectiles in high winds. Secure all lightweight objects and anchor any items that may become airborne. Clear clogged rain gutters of debris to prevent water damage to your property. Install typhoon shutters or board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood.

If you need to evacuate to an emergency shelter, before you leave home, shut off your incoming electricity at the main breaker or switch, usually located by the electric meter or in the circuit breaker panel.

If you are dependent on an electrically-powered life support system, consider having a backup generator. Otherwise, make plans ahead of time to go to an alternate location where electricity will be available such as hospitals. Be prepared to take your medical equipment and medications with you.

To protect your electric equipment from power outages and fluctuations caused by tropical storms, unplug unnecessary and sensitive electronic equipment. Use high-quality surge suppressors for electric appliances that remain plugged in.

The Authority provides the following tips for the safe operation of and use of generators:

Connecting a Generator

- Never try to power house/building wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back feeding." It can lead to electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer. The only safe way to connect a generator to a house/building wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.
- Use proper extension cords. Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances.

- Protect your appliances. Turn off or unplug all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

Placement of Generator & Carbon Monoxide Safety

- **Never use a portable generator indoors – If you or someone starts to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, move to fresh air right away, do not delay.**
- Place the generator in a dry, outside location.
- Place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Use and Storage of Generator Fuel

- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas, preferably in a locked area or other protected area.
- If you spill fuel or do not seal the container properly, invisible vapors can travel along the ground and be ignited by arcs from electric switches in the appliance.
- Use the type of fuel recommended in the generator instructions or on its label.

Shutting down the Generator

- Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.

Residents should keep a close watch on regional weather conditions by keeping up-to-date on the latest weather forecasts and conditions from the National Weather Service (NWS) at www.weather.gov/gum/.

Below are links to other resources for typhoon preparedness and to obtain other pertinent information:

- NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/
- GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

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