GUAM POWER AUTHORITY
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ADVISORY TO THE PUBLIC
Proper Use of a Generator During Power Outages

(Fadian, Mangilao) – As GPA continues restoration to the Island-Wide Power System, some residents and businesses may rely on standby or portable electric generators to provide power.

For proper use of generator, GPA asks that you ensure your main breakers are opened (off position) when operating your private generator. This is for the safety of the crews and your equipment.

If installed and operated correctly, use of standby or portable electric generators poses little danger, **but improper installation or use could be dangerous and even deadly**. Follow the directions from the operator's manual supplied with the generator. Incorrect generator use can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock or electrocution and fire.

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

Connecting the 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

- **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.

GPA provides these tips to our customers for the safe operation of and use of generators. Proper use will prevent serious injury or death to our residents and/or GPA line crews who are either clearing lines or energizing primary and secondary power lines across the island.

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