# THE MPPD MINUTE



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## DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle, or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, **DO NOT get out of your cab**. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

**To avoid becoming electrocuted:**

**- Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.

**- Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

**- Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.

**- Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.

## USE A GENERATOR SAFELY

Portable or permanently installed standby generators can come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous.
Contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best suited to your needs. Before using, read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

If you are installing a permanent generator, it **must have a transfer switch**. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back onto the utility electrical equipment, when it **could be dangerous to a lineworker or others near downed power lines**, a process known as "backfeed." A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

Follow these tips to use portable generators safely:

- Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. **Never** run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall to avoid backfeed. Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Turn the generator on before plugging appliances to it. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage; prioritize your needs.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary if the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator from water and rain by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Safe Electricity suggests these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator. Visit SafeElectricity.org for more information.