

# Electrical Safety: Think Outside the Home

Electrical hazards are not only present indoors, but can also occur outside. Follow this guide to help prevent common outdoor electrical hazards.

## POWER LINES

Before planting trees near a power line, conduct research or speak with a professional to ensure there's enough space for it to grow. If you suspect that a tree is too close to power lines, report it to your local utility.



Always keep yourself and equipment at least **10 Ft.** away from power lines. Electricity can jump to nearby objects!

Power lines are also underground. Call **811** before you dig.

## OUTDOOR OUTLETS

Have **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** installed, which automatically cut power when a plugged in item comes in contact with water or begins to "leak" electricity.



Install **weatherproof** boxes or covers on outdoor outlets.

## GENERATORS

Between 1999 and 2012, **79%** of the 931 **carbon monoxide (CO) fatalities** were associated with generators.



**24%** of CO fatalities involving generators occurred when used inside an attached **garage or shed**.



Make sure your home is properly equipped with carbon monoxide alarms and **test them monthly**.



When in use, position generators outside and **away from doors, windows and vents**.

Do not plug generators directly into a home outlet without a transfer switch to **prevent backfeed** which could harm utility line workers making repairs.

Make sure your generator is **properly grounded**.

## EXTENSION CORDS

Extension cords provide a **temporary solution** and should not be used long-term or permanently.

Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors. Outdoor cords will be labeled **"For Outdoor Use"** and are often orange.



**Never attempt to extend the length** of an extension cord by connecting it to another extension cord.



Be sure the **amperage rating** for the extension cord is higher than amperage of the electrical product being used.



Only use extension cords that have the mark of a **nationally recognized testing laboratory** such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



## ADDITIONAL TIPS

Store fuel in **approved containers** and away from any **potential heat sources**, like a furnace, space heater, or even direct sunlight.



When storing electrical products in your garage, **use containers** to prevent exposure to water or damage caused by animals.



Have an electrician **inspect** your swimming pool, spa or hot tub to ensure it complies with applicable local codes, such as the **National Electrical Code®**.

