



The safe use of **Portable Generators**

In the event of a hurricane, customers could be without electricity for an extended period. Following Hurricane Ivan and the close-calls from other hurricanes, many people purchased generators which they will re-use in the event another storm or hurricane affects our Islands.

» If you decide to use a portable generator CUC encourages you to obtain advice from a qualified electrician on the safe operation of the equipment to prevent fires and electrical shocks. Please read the manufacturer's manual to ensure proper use.

» **Do not connect the output of the generator into the breaker panel or household outlets as it will create safety issues for you and CUC's line crews.** Connecting the generator into the panel box could result in electrocution as it may back feed into and energise CUC's power lines. Plug your appliances directly into the generator and avoid overloading.

» We recommend that you also place the generator **outdoors** in a well-ventilated area away from your home and windows to avoid the carbon-monoxide fumes from the exhaust, which could cause lethal poisoning. Protect the generator from direct exposure to rain by placing it under a canopy, makeshift cover, an open shed or carports that are not enclosed.

» Never refuel a generator while it is running or hot and always keep open flames away from the generator. Use a flashlight or battery lantern when refuelling. Unplug the generator output cord before starting it.

Additional safety precautions:

» If your generator has been stored away for a while and not been used, have someone who is familiar with small engines (lawn mowers, etc.), do a detailed check and service of the generator before starting it.

» If you are familiar with servicing small engines, follow these simple steps when testing your generator:

- Drain the "old" gasoline from the tank;
- Inspect the fuel lines for cracks;
- Refill the tank with fresh gasoline and start it;
- Run the generator for 15 minutes in an open area away from buildings, trees and bushes, turn off the fuel valve and run the fuel line dry. After the engine stalls, turn off the run switch, change the oil, add fuel stabilizer to the gasoline, drain the carburetor float bowl (and sediment bowl, if installed) and put the generator back in storage.
- While testing the generator, inspect your extension cords to ensure they are in good condition. Replace cords that are damaged.



To report or obtain information on power outages, call **945-1CUC**. In the event of an electrical emergency, please call **911** immediately.