

Safety Around The Home

Emergency Power At The Flip Of A Switch

(NAPSA)—During blackouts and hurricanes, homeowners are turning to gasoline-powered generators for emergency power.

A portable generator won't replace all the electricity provided by the power company. But it can make life safer and more comfortable until power is restored.

Getting the most from a portable generator requires some simple planning. Experts at Honda Power Equipment offer these tips to help consumers make a safe, affordable transition to portable power.

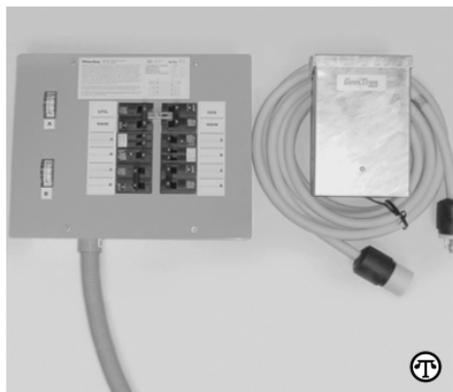
- Preparation, and knowing your needs and budget, are critical.

“Since home generators range from 1,000 to more than 10,000 watts, a homeowner must understand electrical requirements and estimate real emergency needs,” said Kris Delaney, Honda Power Equipment Product Planner.



While they can be used to power a computer or television, emergency generators should always be operated outdoors.

“Refrigerators or freezers operate on about 700 watts, but require as much as 2,200 watts to



A transfer switch, installed by a licensed electrician, cuts off the utility power when the generator is in operation.

start; a computer draws 600 to 800 watts. So it could take a 2,500-watt generator to run a refrigerator, minimal lighting and a computer or TV.

- A generator must be operated outside and never be plugged into a standard household outlet. “A safe connection starts with a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician,” advised Delaney. “The switch cuts off the utility power while the generator operates, and powers only selected appliances.”

- When utility power is restored, the generator and transfer switch are disconnected so that the two power sources do not collide.

The Honda generator line offers variable wattages and other innovative features, including inverter technology that protects against damaging power surges, large fuel tanks, full frame protection and electric starters.

More information, including household wattage calculators, can be found at www.honda.com.