

## Generator safety

If you decide to use a back-up generator, you must connect it and use it in an approved manner. This reduces the danger to you, to SMUD employees working on restoring your power, and protects your equipment and generator. Portable generators must stand alone and only be connected with the electrical device they are supplying.

**What not to do:** Do not connect generators directly to the internal wiring of your home unless a licensed electrician has installed an approved switch to prevent backfeed of electricity into SMUD's system. This reverse flow of electricity into SMUD's system poses a severe electrocution risk to our employees. The backfeed is converted to high voltage electricity by our transformers, and may energize a part of our system that should not have high voltage present. An employee could touch this equipment and be severely injured or killed.

**Connecting:** A generator can be used to serve essential power needs in two ways. The electrical device can be plugged into a generator with an approved extension cord, or the generator can be tied into the customer's electrical system with a UL

1008 certified automatic or manual transfer switch. The purpose of the transfer switch is to ensure the customer's load is disconnected from SMUD's distribution system before the generator is used to restore power. A transfer switch must be installed by a qualified electrician and approved by city or county building inspectors. If a customer's generator is connected directly to SMUD's system and is operating when utility power is restored, the results could be catastrophic damage to equipment, generator, or internal wiring.

### Other generator safety tips:

- Never run a generator indoors—the exhaust fumes can be deadly.
- Be careful refueling your generator. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and will quickly seek the nearest source of ignition resulting in an explosion and/or fire.
- Use only grounded extension cords that are properly rated for your load requirements.
- Use ground fault interrupters to reduce the risk of electrocution.



## Winter storm tips for your home

For over 70 years, SMUD, your community-owned and not-for-profit electric service, has delivered on its promise to provide reliable power. When power outages occur, crews work around the clock to restore service as quickly as possible. Here are some tips to help ensure your safety and the safety of our crews during power outages.



## Before a storm

Become familiar with your service panel location and how to operate the main circuit breaker. Prepare a basic emergency kit that contains bottled water, food, medications, flashlight, portable cell phone charger, extra batteries, wind-up clock, manual can opener, battery-operated radio or television and pet supplies. Visit [ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://ready.gov/build-a-kit) for a more comprehensive list.

## If the power goes out

Call our 24-hour outage line at: 1-888-456-SMUD (7683), or visit [smud.org/Outages](http://smud.org/Outages). Also check @smudupdates on Twitter, or enroll in My Account at [smud.org/MyAccount](http://smud.org/MyAccount) to receive real-time text alerts.

You will receive information about identified outages. If the outage in your area is not listed, you may be asked to supply your address and phone number.

Turn off electrical appliances except one light to lower the demand for electricity, this will make it easier for our crews to restore service. The light will signify when power has been restored.

Resetting your main breaker in your service panel or circuit breaker box may restore power to your home. Check to see if the large, main circuit breaker has flipped to the "off" or "trip" position. If it has, and you are standing on dry ground and have dry hands, push the switch to the "off" and then to the "on" position.

If your power still does not come on, call SMUD's toll-free outage line at 1-888-456-SMUD (7683).

## Restoring power

During severe storms, our crews work hard to restore power outages based on these priorities:

1. Public safety hazards (power lines/poles down)
2. Hospitals, critical flood and sewage control pumps
3. Large area outages
4. Scattered smaller outages

The first SMUD employee to your area will identify the problems and make minor repairs to restore electrical service when possible. If the problem is a tree or branch tangled in a power line, a tree crew will respond to remove debris. If there is substantial equipment damage, such as downed power lines or utility poles, line workers or service crews will make the necessary repairs.

## If power lines are down

Immediately call 911 and SMUD at 1-888-456-SMUD (7683).

Stay away from power lines that have fallen. They can cause serious injury or even death to anyone close by. Assume the line is "energized" and warn others of the danger. Do not remove fallen tree limbs or other debris from a power line. Tree limbs and other objects can conduct electricity that can shock anyone coming in contact with them.