



# 4 P'S FOR COLD WEATHER

## PEOPLE

Avoid going outside if it is not necessary. If you do, make sure you layer up from head to toe. To keep you and your family safe, it is imperative your home is warm.

## PETS

Pets, like humans, are vulnerable to cold temperatures. If not taken care of properly, they can succumb to frostbite and even hypothermia.

## PIPES

Make sure to cover all your exposed pipes with a cover. You can also cover your pipes with towels, duct tape or another adhesive strip as long as they are wrapped tightly.

## PLANTS

When cold weather hits, it's a good idea to bring in all of your outdoor plants. If you can't bring in the plant, cover it with a blanket to make sure they do not die.

**Freezing temperatures on the way, now is the time to prepare:**

### Protect your people, pets, pipes and plants.

- Check on family and neighbors who may need help preparing.
- Bring pets indoors.
- Cover or insulate exposed pipes. Turn off sprinkling systems, and open cabinets to expose pipes to indoor heat. If you have a pool, it's important to run the pool pump continuously when the temperature is below freezing to keep the water moving through the pipework. If your power goes out, shut off your water and turn on all the downstairs faucets to drain, and drain your pool pump equipment.
- Bring potted plants indoors. Apply a thick layer of mulch around ground plants, and cover sensitive plants with a sheet.

Residents should begin cold weather preparations before the front arrives.

Warming centers around Houston are opened in major weather events like freezes. Call 2-1-1 for the latest information.

- [How to winterize the back flow preventer on your sprinkler irrigation system](#)
- [How to shut off water to your house](#)
- [Sign up for alerts from your Cypress Forest PUD Water Utility District](#)



Other sources of information to help you prepare and to keep you updated:

- Forecasts: [National Weather Service Houston-Galveston](#)
- Winter Weather Safety: [National Weather Service](#)
- Be Prepared for Disaster: [Ready Harris](#)
- Local Road Conditions: [Houston TranStar](#)
- State Road Conditions: [DriveTexas.org](#)
- Texas State Fire Marshal: [Portable Generator Safety](#)
- Harris County Fire Marshall: [Winter Weather Safety](#)
- How to [Unfreeze Water Pipework](#)



# GENERATOR SAFETY

## USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

### GENERATORS

#### Location



Always keep generators at least **20 feet away** from your home



Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**



Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation



Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents



Always **direct exhaust** away from your home

#### Use



Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use



Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used



Always use **GFCI protection**



Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected



Keep generators dry, **do not operate when wet**, and refuel when cool



**Do not overload** generators



Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

### TRANSFER SWITCHES



Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**



Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system



Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION



Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**



Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home



CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

#### Symptoms of CO poisoning



Dizziness



Headaches



Nausea



Tiredness



If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911**.

Please share this free resource to save lives



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[www.twitter.com/ESFiDotOrg](https://www.twitter.com/ESFiDotOrg)

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