

What's Happening

January 1

New Year's Day

January 20

**Martin Luther King
Jr. Day**



Rock Energy Offices Closed:

- **Tues., Dec. 31**
- **Wed., Jan. 1**

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Keep Clear Path to Meter & Pipes

Rock Energy Cooperative workers are always careful on the job, but they appreciate clear paths to **meters, transformers, and other co-op equipment** on your property. Keep firewood, snowdrifts, and other obstacles away from meters, transformers, and other equipment.

If snow and/or ice blocks any of these items, it can not only cause significant damage, but it can be very dangerous as well. Keeping these items free from snow and ice will ensure a safe environment for workers when or if they need access to the area in order to ensure proper and efficient operation of all equipment.

Also remember to clear snow away from **furnace intake and exhaust pipes**. These pipes on the outside of your house are sometimes just a few inches off the ground and can be buried by snowdrifts. If snow covers part of the pipe, exhaust could begin to back up into your home. That exhaust contains carbon monoxide and other harmful gases. High levels of carbon monoxide in your home can lead to sickness and even cause death. When clearing snow from your meter and pipes, avoid using a snow blower. Instead, gently remove snow and ice from the area using a light broom or your hand.

Are You Getting A Generator?

If So, Make Sure To Keep **SAFETY** Top-Of-Mind

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporary or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines. A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet.

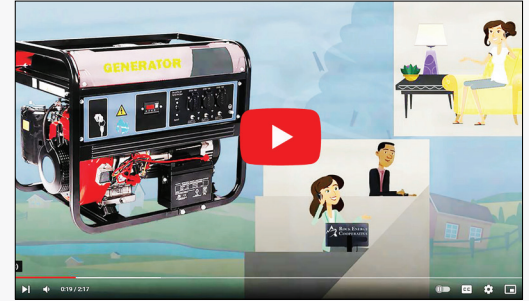
Before purchasing a generator you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to the generator. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn an appliance on.

Once you have purchased a generator, make sure to follow the important safety tips below to properly and safely operate it.

GENERATOR USE - SAFETY TIPS:

- **CORDS:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded, and use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- **POWER SUPPLY:** Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs.
- **DON'T OVERLOAD:** Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances. Also, there should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- **ELECTRICAL CODES:** Use a qualified electrician to install the appropriate equipment in accordance with local electrical codes or ask your utility company to install an appropriate power transfer switch.
- **USE OUTDOORS ONLY:** Do not assume that you are safe. Carbon monoxide from generators is completely colorless and odorless, so you won't know if it's there. Therefore, do not use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces — including homes, garages, and crawl spaces — even those areas with partial ventilation.
- **DOORS & WINDOWS:** Do not operate near open doors and windows. Using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide build-up in the home. Also install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.
- **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS:** Do not store fuel for your generator in your house. Gasoline, propane, kerosene, diesel and other flammable liquids should be stored outside living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers.
- **FUEL STORAGE:** Do not store fuel near a fuel-burning appliance, for example a gas stove.
- **SPILLS:** If the fuel is spilled or the container is not sealed properly, invisible vapors from the fuel can travel along the ground and be ignited by the appliance's pilot light or by arcs from electric switches.
- **REFUELING:** Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline or other flammable liquids spilled on hot engine parts could ignite, and invisible vapors from the fuel can travel along the ground and be ignited by the generator's pilot light or by arcs from electric switches in the appliance. Also, fuel your generator outside, never refuel indoors.

Generator Video



Are you thinking of installing a generator at home?



Rock Energy Cooperative urges you to make sure you understand power and safety considerations before adding a generator to your home. To help get started, check out our Generator Installation Video by scanning the QR code above.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Rock Energy must be notified about any permanently installed generator.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
ACCESS THE APPLICATION

REC Scholarships Available - Apply by Jan. 10

Rock Energy Cooperative (REC) again is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students who live on REC lines and whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking. Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$182,000 in financial aid to deserving students. Scan the QR code (at left) to access the application, or go to www.rock.coop and go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. **The deadline for submitting applications is: Jan. 10, 2025.** If you have any questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or jonasb@rock.coop.