

## 5. Generator Safety

A portable or permanent generator can be installed by the member to provide backup power in the event of a power outage. A generator can also pose a deadly threat to linemen working on restoring a power outage. If installed incorrectly, a generator can essentially cause electricity to flow “backwards”. The backward flowing electricity (or backfeed) will flow from the member’s generator, through the home’s electrical panel, and up to REMC power lines. This will place an unsafe voltage on a power line that a linemen would assume is “not electrified”.

It is highly recommended that if you plan on installing a generator to have a licensed electrician perform this work. There are relatively inexpensive measures that can be put in place to protect the linemen working to restore the outage. If installed correctly, a “transfer switch” will not allow a connection between the generator and REMC power lines.

There are many ways to incorrectly install a generator. If you currently have a generator and have questions in regards to the safety of the installation, please contact REMC at 812-738-4115.