



# July 2022

## Newsletter

## OCEC Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update

OCEC has updated our Wildfire Mitigation Plan for the 2022 season. You can find the updated document under the Quick Links section of [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop).

OCEC operations staff will be monitoring the weather and conditions daily as we move into the heat of summer and will notify the membership via text alert or email when conditions warrant a change to our system processes.

If you are not already signed up for our text message alerts please go to the Member Services section of [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop) to get signed up.

We encourage all our members to have their own wildfire preparedness plan in place including establishing your own loss of power emergency plan for your household. Check out the resources available in the Methow Valley at [www.methowready.org/](http://www.methowready.org/).

## Do we have your contact information?



- Is your old landline phone your main contact on your account? (Hint: check your statement)
- Do we have your correct email address? We have E-Bills available if you're tired of paper!
- Are you receiving outage text alerts? Should another person in your house get them too?

We want to be sure we can contact you when the need arises!

To check your account information log into your account at [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop) or email [info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop).

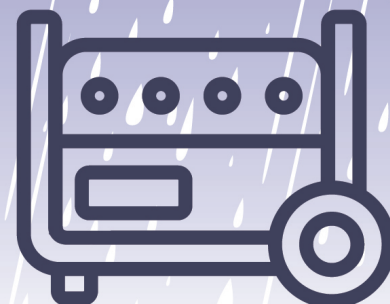
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**Our mailing address is:** PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA. 98862  
**Hours of operation:** Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
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# A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



## RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

### Recreational Inverter

**Up to 2,000 watts**

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

### Midsized Inverter

**Up to 3,500 watts**

Weighs up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

### Portable Generators and Large Inverters

**Up to 7,500 watts**

Weighs about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

### Home Standby

**Up to 20,000 watts**

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

## SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.  
**Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.**
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

**Disclaimer:** Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

*Source: Consumer Reports*