



⚠️ Using a Generator During a Power Outage? Stay Safe.

When the lights go out, a generator can help — but it also brings serious risks if used the wrong way.



⚡ Know the Dangers

- **Carbon monoxide poisoning:** Deadly, odorless gas builds up fast indoors.
- **Electrocution:** Damaged cords or improper hookups can shock or kill.
- **Backfeeding:** Sends power into utility lines and puts repair crews in danger.
- **Fire hazards:** Hot engines + fuel vapors = ignition risk.
- **Overloading:** Too many devices can overheat and destroy equipment.

🔒 Stay Safe

- Run generators **outdoors**, far from doors and windows.
- Use a **transfer switch** installed by a licensed electrician.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use **heavy-duty outdoor cords**.
- Let the generator **cool completely** before refueling.
- Keep **CO detectors** installed and tested.

Power outages are stressful — but safety should never take a back seat. Stay alert, stay protected.

 **BEA Winter Storm Alert**  A severe winter storm is possible, and **Bolivar Energy Authority** is closely monitoring conditions. Your safety is our priority. Please stay alert — especially with the increased risk of **downed lines and poles** across Hardeman County.

 **See a downed line or pole?**  **Call BEA immediately: 731-658-5257**  815
Tennessee Street, Bolivar, TN 38008

Important Storm Reminders

- **Lines may re-energize automatically** during storms.
- **Wire-down calls come first** for BEA crews.
- **Phone lines may be busy** — keep calling until connected.

Downed Power Line Safety

- Stay **35+ feet away** — wet ground conducts electricity.
- Treat **every line as energized**.
- Avoid **puddles, ditches, and low spots**.
- Call **BEA (731-658-5257)** and **911** if the line blocks a roadway.

If a Line Falls on Your Vehicle

- **Stay inside** — your vehicle protects you.
- Call **911** and **BEA**.
- If fire forces you out:
 - **Jump clear with both feet together**
 - **Shuffle away 35+ feet**

After the Storm

- Check your **service entrance** from a distance. If damaged, a **licensed electrician** is required and BEA must be notified before repairs.
- Avoid **metal fences** — they can carry current.
- Never run **generators near downed lines** — backfeed can energize BEA equipment.

Cleanup in Tree-Heavy Areas

- Never cut limbs touching lines.
- Don't remove debris until BEA confirms the line is de-energized.
- Watch for **hidden wires** in brush piles.