



**Safeguarding**  
our clients, their  
loved ones, and  
possessions during  
load shedding

## Here are some **safety tips to consider when using a generator during load shedding**

Load shedding severely impacts everyday consumers who do not only have to deal with the inconvenience caused by the sudden loss of power, but also with the risk of power surges that pose a risk to appliances. There are also additional safety concerns for residential areas including higher risk of burglaries and theft, as opportunistic criminals use power blackouts to their advantage.

It is important to ensure our clients' personal safety during power cuts. This means being even more vigilant than usual and not putting themselves into a high-risk situation. Keeping their cellphones charged and their home well-lit with rechargeable/solar-powered or battery-powered lights are just some of the things they can do to keep safe.

"Since it would appear that load shedding will remain part of our lives for the foreseeable future as Eskom maintains and upgrades its ageing infrastructure, Momentum Insure would like to provide a few practical steps to employ to limit the impact that it has on our clients' families, loved ones and possessions," says Vickey Swanevelder, Executive Head of Claims and Client Experience at Momentum Insure.

## Tips to minimise the impact of power outages:

- To minimise the load on the generator, consider purchasing battery powered portable LED lights. Alternatively, clients can also look at solar powered lights as an alternative.
- Try and keep abreast of power cuts or the load shedding schedule within their areas.
- Pre-plan for loadshedding times, by charging smart mobile devices, battery packs and laptops ahead of the scheduled power cuts.
- Invest in surge protector plugs for expensive or sensitive electronic equipment and appliances including refrigerators and desktop computers.
- If they are in a position to do so, clients can consider alternative energy solutions such as solar power, gas and other energy storage solutions like backup and standby generators. Ensure that equipment and systems are installed according to the SABS (South African Bureau of Standards) requirements.



## How to use generators safely:

- We recommend that both backup and standby generators be installed by an electrician or a suitably qualified technician. Backup generators operate independently from the electrical system of the household. Conversely, a standby generator is directly linked to the home's electrical system, allowing it to automatically start-up as and when power cuts occur.
- Be sure to operate the generator outdoors within an area that has plenty of ventilation – not a partially closed off room, garage, or inside the house. This is because diesel generators give off carbon monoxide which is toxic.
- Store the diesel/petrol for the generator in an approved safety container. Be sure to use the correct type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator. Store the fuel in a locked cabinet or drawer to avoid children accessing it or any other unauthorised usage.
- Make sure to keep the generator as dry as possible.
- In the event that the generator is running low on fuel, make sure that the generator is turned off and has cooled down before refuelling it.
- Keep children and pets away from generators, since these devices have components that become hot enough to burn and possibly cause injuries while in operation.
- Make sure to turn the generator on first, before connecting other appliances to it. Once the generator is running, they can turn appliances on one by one to avoid overloading the device.
- Remember that generators are for temporary usage only (during times of load shedding), so prioritise needs.
- Like cars, service the generator regularly to avoid disappointment and to ensure safety when using it.



“Momentum Insure hopes that these tips will help keep our clients, their loved ones and their possessions safe to make sure that they are on track on their journey to growth and success,” concludes Swanevelder.