



Message from Advise Guy Robert Talton

Protecting Your Home During Storms

We all enjoy the comfort of being in a cozy, well-lit home, especially when the weather outside is harsh. However, power outages can lead to spoiled food and even health risks if medical equipment fails. Having a generator can be a lifesaver, keeping your home running until the power is restored. While we work hard to provide reliable service, we can't guarantee uninterrupted service.

Generators: There are three types of residential generators: portable, inverter, and standby. When choosing the right generator for your home, it's important to understand the pros and cons of each option and the wattage you'll need. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'd want to keep running during a power outage and add up the wattage. Consulting with an electrician or a generator company can also help you estimate your needs.

• **Portable Generators:** These are the most affordable option. Portable generators are smaller and usually power a few key appliances. Additionally, you should use an appropriately sized extension cord (14 gauge or higher) to prevent fire or electrocution. Keep in mind that

carbon monoxide detectors and fresh air are a must when operating portable generators.

• **Inverter Generators:** These are popular for their fuel efficiency, quiet operation, and clean power output. Inverter generators adjust their engine speed based on the amount of electricity needed, making them more efficient than standard portable models. Inverters are gasoline-powered and are ideal for those looking for a balance of portability and efficiency.

• **Standby Generators:** These are permanently installed outside your home and automatically switch on when the power goes out. They are larger and can power your entire home, often running on propane or natural gas. Standby generators are the safest to operate, but they are also the most expensive, with units costing around \$20,000 for 20,000 watts. Installation should be done by a professional, as it requires wiring to the home's electrical panel.

Regardless of the type of generator you choose, regular maintenance is essential. Generators should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly.

Surge Protection: Power out-

ages aren't the only threat to home appliances and electronics—voltage surges can also cause significant damage. A surge, which is a sudden increase in voltage, can destroy delicate electronic circuits found in everything from refrigerators to computers. Surges can be caused by various events, including lightning strikes, accidents involving power lines, or even large appliances turning on and off inside your home.

To protect devices from surges, it's recommended to use surge suppressors. Surge suppressors divert excess electricity away from sensitive devices, protecting them from damage. For the best protection, a two-stage approach is ideal:

South River EMC offers both whole-house protection and individual plug-in suppressors through the Strike Guard program. This equipment can prevent voltage surges from damaging large appliances or slowly wearing down microprocessors in computers and other electronics.

For more information on this information please visit [sremc.com](https://www.sremc.com) or email us at AdviseGuys@sremc.com.



South River EMC
Communicator

PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335
910.892.8071
800.338.5530
[sremc.com](https://www.sremc.com)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®