

Double-Throw Safety Transfer Switches for Emergency Generators

Cooperative members should be aware that if they wish to connect a portable generator into their home, building, or farm wiring system during a power outage, then a double-throw safety transfer switch must be installed. During emergencies, many members think they can just pull the meter or put their breaker in the “off” position and then connect their generator into their home’s wiring system. However, this is a very dangerous practice and one which the Cooperative does not allow. If the meter is accidentally installed, or if the breaker malfunctions or is accidentally turned on, then power from the generator would “backfeed” onto SIEC’s distribution system, endangering linemen who will be working on the lines. Members are required to install a double-throw safety transfer switch, such as the one shown here. The Cooperative does offer these switches for sale, and they should be installed by a qualified electrician. Members should plan ahead to ensure safety when power outages occur! Please contact the Cooperative if you have any questions on emergency generator safety.

