



The Use of Petrol Generators (MR068)

A Contractors Team working for Network Plus were on a site carrying out excavations for metering. As the team leader was in the excavation the hole started to fill with water, he instructed the labourer to set the generator up as he needed the water pump. The labourer placed the generator on a pile of spoil within the back of the van and set it running. After approximately 20 minutes, the generator started to run out of fuel and the labourer was instructed to refuel the generator. The labourer left the generator in the van and did not switch it off whilst he attempted to re-fuel it. As he attempted to re-fuel the generator it is thought that the fuel dripped onto the hot exhaust and ignited which resulted in the van being engulfed in flames. Fortunately, the labourer was able to get out of the vehicle and only sustained minor injuries. The consequences of this incident could have been much worse for the Team members and others in the area.



Remember:

- Before use **remove** generators from your van and place them in the fresh air on level ground in a drip tray or plant nappy.
- Generators **must be** turned off and allowed to cool briefly before refuelling.
- Never overfill the fuel tank and always replace the filler cap once completed.
- Refuel outdoors in a well-ventilated area.
- Clean funnels must be used when refuelling.
- Gloves must be worn. Never smoke while refuelling.
- Refuelling **must not** be done near a water course or drain.
- Spill kits must be available.
- All fuel **must be** stored in correct containers, on drip trays away from the operating generator and out of direct sun light.
- If fuel is spilt during refuelling, make sure that the spill is cleaned / soaked up before starting the engine.
- A dry powder fire extinguisher must be available when refuelling the generator.
- Operative was using a 20L fuel can, not the approved 5L fuel can.

