M&J GROUP
CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING

TOOLBOX TALKS

#85 | GENERATORS

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TOOL BOX TALK: #85 GENERATORS

LEARNING POINTS

- Generators produce harmful gases, including Carbon Monoxide, which can kill. These gases are invisible, do not have a smell, and affect your senses so you don't actually know you are breathing them in;

- Generators must not be used or left running in an enclosed space, for example inside buildings or vehicles

- People using portable generators should be competent in their use. This includes siting generators so that fumes are exhausted away from the work area. Always read and follow the manufacturers operating and safety instructions provided with the equipment.

NOTHING IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT SAFELY

Safety Alerts should not be thought of as an accident investigation report. However, they are issued to raise awareness of accidents that occur and to highlight the safe work practices required to avoid them being repeated.

CONTRACTORS EXPOSED TO HARMFUL LEVELS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

In 2015, in the space of a three month period there were 2 serious incidents by other contractors involving the use of mobile generators in unsuitable locations which put lives in danger.

The first incident involved the use of a portable generator to power tools for breaking out concrete in a pub cellar.

After some time, one of the operatives left the basement feeling unwell and an ambulance was called. The cellar was ventilated but after 45 mins, gas monitors were still reading 80% Carbon Monoxide.

Generator stored underneath hatch
(not open at the time of the incident)

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The second incident was where a portable generator was used to pump out an excavation which was continually flooded by a leaking main.

The generator, which was inside their vehicle, was left running to keep the road free of water. The gang got into the van whilst waiting for a 2nd team to rezone the area. They were found unconscious when the 2nd team arrived to assist them.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

Do you have any further questions? *Ask them now & make notes here.*

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN ACCIDENT
SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE DID SOMETHING TO CAUSE IT.