

Operating Portable Diesel Generators for Backup Power During Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

Interim Guidance Document ¹

To reduce the risk of wildfires caused by electricity transmission and distribution networks, utility companies are de-energizing their networks during periods of high winds and fire danger (referred to as Public Safety Power Shutoffs or PSPS events). When electric utilities de-energize their electric lines, the demand for back-up power increases. This document provides guidance on using portable diesel generators during PSPS events.

If you plan to use a portable diesel generator rated greater than or equal to 50 bhp at your home or business during a PSPS event, a District permit or a Registration from the state’s Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) is required. The following guidance should be used to determine whether a District permit or PERP Registration is required for your engine:

District Permit	PERP Registration ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engine may be owned or rented ✓ Engine may be on-site for more than 12 months ✓ Engine may be operated for PSPS events and other emergency power outages in accordance with permit conditions ✓ PSPS operation is considered emergency use ✓ Engine may be operated onsite for maintenance and testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Only for rental engines ✓ Engine may be on-site for up to 12 months ³ ✓ Engine may be hooked up once notified of potential PSPS by electric utility ✓ Engine must be disconnected as soon as PSPS warning or event is over ✓ Engine may only be used during PSPS event ✓ Engine may not be operated onsite for maintenance or testing

Backup diesel generators aren’t for everyone; the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has identified emergency backup power technology options available that minimize community-level air pollutant emissions exposure, see: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/technology-clearinghouse/technology-clearinghouse-tools/next-gen-tools>.

More information about PSPS events is available here: www.ourair.org/psps-events/

More information about the state’s PERP is available here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/portable-equipment-registration-program-perp>

¹ This interim guidance document is effective until December 31, 2021.

² During emergency events, as defined in the PERP Regulation (https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/PERP_Reg_12.5.18.pdf), portable generators shall be registered with either (a) PERP from CARB, or (b) in accordance with §2455(c) of the PERP Regulation using CARB *Form-40*.

³ The 12 month period is cumulative for generators and replacement generators used for the same purpose.