



Emergency Generators and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Events For Ventura County Residents

Diesel backup generators, also known as emergency engines, might be part of your preparedness plan for potential PSPS events. Please think about safety, noise, and cost when considering a emergency engine option. Diesel exhaust contains toxic air contaminants and has been linked to lung cancer and other adverse health effects. Due to these concerns, there are permitting and registration requirements in Ventura County.

You do not need a permit from VCAPCD if:

- You are a resident living in a dwelling with 4 families or fewer, or
- Your generator is less than 50 BHP, or
- You are renting a portable generator greater than or equal to 50 BHP and it is not wired/connected and readily available to operate, or
- Your generator uses any fuels other than diesel

If you do have a permit, in the event of a PSPS:

- PSPS events are considered an emergency, and there is no hourly operational limit during these emergencies

What alternatives are there to diesel backup generators?

- Solar with battery storage is the cleanest and safest option
- Natural gas or propane generators result in less pollution than diesel or gasoline

Considerations for Diesel backup generators:

- Never use a generator indoors, the exhaust can be harmful to people and animals
- Be mindful of your neighbor's sensitivity to noise and exhaust from generators
- If using a generator during a wildfire, maintain a room which powers a HEPA air purifier to provide a clean air room for your family

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
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