



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

EMERGENCY GENERATORS & PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS) EVENTS FOR RESIDENTS

Backup generators aren't for everyone. Consider safety, noise, and cost along with your emergency power needs. Diesel exhaust contains toxic air contaminants and has been linked to lung cancer and other adverse health effects. Because of those concerns, there are permitting and registration requirements.

What are the permit requirements for diesel backup generators?

- An APCD permit is required for diesel engines 50 bhp or greater.
- You can use a permitted diesel backup generator during a PSPS event and be compliant with air quality requirements if:
 - You are within an outage area, and
 - You use the generator only when the outage has occurred and only during the outage.

What are the alternatives to diesel backup generators?

- Battery and solar generators are the cleanest, safest options.
- Other alternatives to diesel include gasoline, natural gas, and propane.

What are some precautions for using backup generators?

- Never use a fuel-powered generator inside your home. Good ventilation is required because of the pollutants that these generators produce.
- Be a good neighbor. Consider the effects of noise and exhaust before installing.
- If you use a generator during a wildfire, we recommend powering a HEPA air purifier to provide a clean air room for your family.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
www.ourair.org | (805) 961-8800 | @OurAirSBC

