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EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

All generators, regardless of fuel type, emit toxic gases in their exhaust. Always operate any combustion source in a well-ventilated environment. Follow ALL of the manufacturer's safety precautions.

Do I need a permit from the Air District to operate my generator?

If your generator is powered by gasoline, propane or natural gas, then the answer is NO. If your generator is 50 horsepower or more and powered by a diesel engine, then the answer is YES

What if I have a diesel engine less than 50 horsepower running my generator?

Then you do NOT need an Air Pollution permit for your generator

What if the diesel engine running my generator is 50 horsepower or greater?

Then you MUST obtain an Air Pollution permit from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Please contact the Air District for the permit application.

What are some tips for using my backup generator?

Never allow generator exhaust to collect in any enclosed space.

Be a good neighbor. Consider the effects of noise and exhaust during the placement of your generator.

Your generator does not always need to run continuously to maintain your refrigerant needs. Giving your generator a break every few hours will save on fuel and noise and extend the life of your generator.

If you are being inundated with smoke from a wildfire while using your generator, we recommend powering a HEPA air purifier to provide a clean air room for your family.

