

California Air Resources Board Regulations Allow for the Use of Back-up Generators During a Public Safety Power Shutoff

Your electric utility may shut your power off to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire during high fire risk weather conditions. During these Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), you may want to meet your electricity needs by using a back-up generator. However, back-up generator exhaust contributes to air pollution.

CARB staff determined that PSPS events are emergency events, and **CARB regulations allow you to use your back-up generators during a PSPS. Contact your local air district before purchasing or renting a large generator to determine what specific local permitting requirements may apply.**

Larger industrial and commercial-type generators (e.g. diesel, gasoline, propane and natural gas engines, >50 bhp or >37 kW)

CARB regulations allow the use of large diesel generators during a PSPS event. Air districts implement and enforce CARB rules and may have other rules that limit how, when, and where you can use large industrial and commercial-type generators.



Smaller consumer-type generators (e.g. off-the-shelf gasoline and propane engines)

CARB rules don't restrict when you can use consumer-type generators during PSPS events.



Safety First

Never operate your generator indoors or near open windows. Generators emit carbon monoxide which can be poisonous when inhaled.

Never connect a generator to your home or business wiring without consulting a licensed electrical contractor and obtaining the necessary permits. Improper and unpermitted wiring can cause fires and puts you, your neighbors, and electrical workers in danger.

Never operate your generator near dry vegetation or while you aren't able to properly monitor it. Fire departments may restrict when and where generators can be used to prevent fires. Contact your local fire department for more information.

Air District Contacts

Amador County APCD	(209) 257-0112
Antelope Valley AQMD	(661) 723-8070
Bay Area AQMD	(415) 749-5000
Butte County AQMD	(530) 332-9400
Calaveras County APCD	(209) 754-6399
Colusa County APCD	(530) 458-0590
Eastern Kern APCD	(661) 862-5250
El Dorado County AQMD	(530) 621-7501
Feather River AQMD	(530) 634-7659
Imperial County APCD	(442) 265-1800
Lake County AQMD	(707) 263-7000
Lassen County APCD	(530) 252-4247
Mariposa County APCD	(209) 966-3689
Mendocino County AQMD	(707) 463-4354
Modoc County APCD	(530) 233-6401
Mojave Desert AQMD	(760) 245-1661
Imperial County APCD	(442) 265-1800
Monterey Bay Air Resources District	(831) 647-9411
North Coast Unified AQMD	(707) 443-3093

Northern Sierra AQMD	(530) 274-9360
Northern Sonoma County APCD	(707) 433-5911
Placer County APCD	(530) 745-2330
Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD	(916) 874-4800
San Diego County APCD	(858) 586-2600
San Joaquin Valley APCD	(559) 230-6000
San Luis Obispo County APCD	(805) 781-5912
Santa Barbara County APCD	(805) 961-8800
Shasta County AQMD	(530) 225-5674
Siskiyou County APCD	(530) 841-4025
South Coast AQMD	(909) 396-2000
Tehama County APCD	(530) 527-3717
Tuolumne County APCD	(209) 533-5693
Ventura County APCD	(805) 645-1400
Yolo-Solano AQMD	(530) 757-3650
South Coast AQMD	(909) 396-2000
Tehama County APCD	(530) 527-3717
Tuolumne County APCD	(209) 533-5693

For more information on CARB regulations, visit arb.ca.gov.