

Understanding The Generator Bill And Your Obligations

If you operate a bulk plant you must be able to operate your loading racks (gravity feed is acceptable along with a generator) for 72 hours following a declared disaster. This 72-hour provision is only required if you have inspected your facility and deemed it safe to operate. You will need to meet this requirement by June 1, 2007. All new construction and remodeling projects as of July 1, 2006 forward that increase your property value by 50% or more are required to install an "appropriate"*** transfer switch to accept a generator capable of operating all of your pumps, dispensing equipment, life-safety systems and, if functional, payment acceptance equipment.

By no later than June 1, 2007, all facilities within a half-mile of an interstate, turnpike or state and federally designated evacuation route must install an "appropriate"*** transfer switch capable of accepting a generator to operate the same equipment as listed above in the new construction rules. This is based on county populations and fueling positions as follows:

If the facility is in a county with a population above 300,000 and has 16 fueling positions (8 dispensers accessed from both sides) you will need to wire for an "appropriate"*** switch. **The following counties meet this criteria: Brevard, Broward, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole and Volusia.**

If the facility is in a county with a population between 100,000 and 300,000 and you have 12 fueling positions (6 dispensers accessed from both sides) you will need to wire for an "appropriate"*** switch. **The following counties meet this criteria: Alachua, Bay, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Hernando, Indian River, Lake, Leon, Martin, Okaloosa, Osceola, St. Johns, St. Lucie and Santa Rosa.**

If the facility is in a county with a population less than 100,000 and you have 8 fueling positions (4 dispensers accessed from both sides) you will need to wire for an "appropriate"*** switch. **The following counties meet this criteria: Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, De Soto, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Putnam, Sumter, Suwanee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton and Washington.**

If you own (as shown by the Department of Environmental Protection Storage Tank Registration List) 10 or more facilities in a county, regardless of location in the county or number of fueling positions, you will need to have one portable generator available and be capable of providing the same requirements listed above. This requirement increases as your number of facilities increase. 16 locations would require you have 2 generators, etc. All portable generators that you plan on using must be stored within the state or if those generators are located outside the state they can't be further than 250 miles away and must be available and in use within 24 hours after the disaster if you have deemed your facility safe to operate.

Finally, if your facility or facilities don't meet any of the above criteria you may volunteer to be part of a "Disaster Motor Fuel Supplier Program". You will be required to provide the same capabilities listed above and you will need to notify your local emergency management people about your intentions. You will be required first to make fuel available for Emergency First Responders. Then you may provide fuel to the general public. You must be aware that language in the generator bill gives your county the option of charging you a fee for volunteering in this manner.

***Appropriate transfer switch (manual or automatic) is at the discretion of the certified licensed electrician (they are required) doing the installation. It is accepted that they will make the right choice of switch for each facility. You must keep all paperwork for these installations available at all times for confirmation of the use of a licensed electrician.