



Building Division Bulletin

02-2011

Topic: Portable Generators

Background:

Generators are appliances that are used when a commercial source of electricity is not available. Generators are generally used on a temporary basis and can pose a safety concern if not properly installed and used according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. One main area of concern is the proper/ adequate grounding provided.

Disclaimer:

This bulletin is not intended to be all inclusive of all provisions pertaining to generators

Requirements:

Governing authority and standards (2005 National Electrical Code (NEC)/ OSHA)

- **General-** All portable generators must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and the most current *National Electrical Code* adopted by the City of Benson. (*Section 110.3 Examination, Identification, Installation, and Use of Equipment. 2005 NEC*)
- **Grounding-** The frame of a portable generator shall not be required to be connected to a grounding electrode...provided the generator meets both of the following requirements:
 - The generator supplies only equipment on the generator, cord and plug connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator, or both, **and**
 - The non-current carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacle are bonded to the generator frame.

The two conditions above can be found and verified using the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Summary:

A portable generator must be used and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions that can be found on the manufacturer's website or the products original packaging. Both governing standards contain the same requirements for the proper use of portable generators.

City Tips for an Expedited Review:

Provide the manufacturer's installation instructions at the time of special event permit application submittal.