

Ensure Access to Power



Purchase a generator that can run all mission critical equipment. Look into whole office generators. An alternative approach is to contract with a firm that will drop off and activate a generator in the event of a loss of power. The agency should have a high degree confidence that the vendor will perform as promised.

Considerations for Purchasing a Generator

- Size needed (kilowatt-hour power)
- Type (plug-in vs. hardwired)
- Fuel type (gas, diesel, natural gas)
- Rate of fuel usage
- Fuel storage/availability
- Maintenance supplies for extended use (engine oil, etc.)
- Security for the generator at night/after hours
- Back feed (generated electricity goes back into the feeder lines, endangering line crews)

Check the oil and fuel levels according to directions, at least once quarterly. Test the generator under an electrical load monthly to assure it is functioning properly and producing the appropriate electrical output (rather than just running the motor).

When running, ensure the generator is located outdoors and away from windows and doors, as fumes and carbon monoxide can be lethal. Also consider the impact of severe wind and rain on the generator.