

## **When installing generators to be connected to household electrical service, obtain proper Building Division permits and hire professionals**

State officials are encouraging Floridians to depend more on their own resources should a hurricane strike. Hearing that message, many have begun purchasing generators and transfer switches that allow those generators to be connected directly to the household electrical service panel.

***If you are planning on having such a system installed, you must first apply for a permit from the North Port Building Division, and the work must be inspected by the City upon completion.***

***Because installing a generator is very complicated, the Building Division strongly recommends that a licensed and insured electrical contractor and qualified generator installer be hired to do the job.***

If you are planning on installing a generator to be connected directly to your home's electrical service, refer your installer and/or electrical contractor to the following North Port Building Division guidelines.

**Please don't hesitate to contact the Building Division at 429-7044 if you have any questions.**

### **Application Permit Requirements**

A standard City of North Port permit application for installing a generator connected to a home's electrical service costs \$80.00, plus any applicable surcharges. Documents required at time of application include:

1. A site plan showing the generator's location;
2. The location of the generator's fuel source and the type of fuel to be used;
3. Manufacturer's specifications;
4. An itemized list of the electrical loads to be served, including any motor loads using motor startup current;
5. Diagrams of feeders, including the size and type of conductors to be used.

### **Contact Florida Power and Light before installation**

If it is necessary for the electrical service to be turned off, or if access is required inside the meter enclosure, the homeowner or installer must contact to arrange for disconnection of the electrical service. The toll-free telephone number for FPL is 1-800-226-3545.

### **After the installation**

After installation, contact the North Port Building Division @ 429-7044 for the required final inspection of the work. PLEASE NOTE that the City must approve the work before FPL will restore power to the premises.

### **Guidelines for Portable Generators with Manual Transfer Equipment:**

Permanently installed equipment for the connection of a portable generator must comply with Section 702.6 of the National Electrical Code (NEC). The manual transfer equipment will require an interlock device suitable for the intended use. This device must be installed to prevent the inadvertent interconnection of the normal and the optional system supply. The connection device must be a UL Standard 231 Listed Power Outlet. The back-feeding of electrical outlets within the home is not permitted.

## **Guidelines for Permanent Generators with Manual Transfer Switches:**

Permanently installed generators with permanently installed manual transfer equipment must comply with the provisions for portable generators or use a Listed Transfer Switch or Panel Board. The equipment must be installed so as to allow the user to select the connected loads upon manual transfer.

## **Guidelines for Permanent Generators with Automatic Transfer Equipment:**

Permanently installed generators with automatic transfer equipment must comply with the provisions of Section 702.5 of the National Electrical Code. The calculated load as determined by Article 220 of the NEC must not exceed the rating of the generator output. Please note that a "Demand Load" will not be accepted in lieu of the calculated load.

ALL load calculations must be included with the approved permit documents and must be available on site with the permit placard at the time of the inspection. All transfer equipment must be listed. Automatic transfer equipment installed on the supply side of the method of disconnecting the service must be listed as suitable for use as service equipment.

## **Required permanent signs for all installations**

Permanent signs must be posted at all of the above-described installations that comply with Section 702.8 of the National Electrical Code. The required signs must indicate the type and location of the on-site optional standby power source, and must be permanently installed and located at the service disconnection point and at the meter enclosure.

All equipment must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

## **Portable generators with built-in power receptacles**

Generators that supply power to connected equipment through built-in receptacles mounted on the generator **DO NOT REQUIRE PERMITS OR INSPECTIONS**.

However, they must be placed well away from a home or any air intake to prevent the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

*As with any of the equipment listed above, be sure to read and follow all safety precautions in your user's manual.*