

EMERGENCY POWER GENERATORS INFORMATION PACKET

Due to the potential of power outages, property owners may elect to install emergency power generators (e.g. backup generators). TRPA staff advises and can work with a property owner to determine if the generator can be placed on existing verified coverage, such as an unused portion of a patio or deck or along side a house. Depending on the installation, the project may be fully exempt (no approval or permit needed) or may require a Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) permit.

For any questions regarding information within this packet, please call 775-589-5333 or email TRPA@trpa.gov to speak with a permitting technician.

EXEMPT FROM TRPA REVIEW (NO PERMIT NEEDED)

LOCATE ON EXISTING COVERAGE

If a generator can be placed in a location that will not create additional [land coverage](#) and the installation requires less than three cubic yards of grading, the installation is fully exempt from TRPA review. (i.e. no application or permit required) This can be accomplished in a number of ways. The generator can be placed in an area that is already considered coverage (e.g., on existing pavement), or can be installed in a way that, by applying the 3:1 height reduction credit, will not create coverage (e.g., within the “coverage shadow” of an elevated deck or other elevated structure). See sample photos below.



PLACE ON GENERATOR STAND

One option for an exempt project is to install a generator on a “generator stand.” There are companies who manufacture these stands in standard dimensions, that should accommodate the most common generators. These can also be custom made, and should be sized appropriately so that, when applying the 3:1 height reduction credit, the generator installation will not create additional land coverage. Below is an example of a generator stand in standard dimensions. A generator stand like this (i.e., 36” in height) will accommodate the most



common size of generator (approximately 26" x 49") without creating additional land coverage. Larger generators may require a stand that is higher off the ground.

HOME BATTERY BACKUPS

Temporary home energy can also be provided by battery systems created for this purpose. These are typically installed on an exterior or interior wall. Battery backup systems provide clean, sustainable backup energy for your home. With no emissions at the source, the products protect air quality and help the region achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals. When paired with rooftop solar energy collectors, they can provide safe, reliable, and renewable energy security for your home. A battery system that does not require new or relocated coverage, or substantial soil disturbance (as stated above), would be Exempt from TRPA review.



PERMIT IS REQUIRED

When the installation of a generator will result in any amount of increased or relocated land coverage or the installation requires more than ten cubic yards of grading on non-sensitive land and three cubic yards on sensitive lands (visit the [Parcel Tracker](#) to see which applies to your property), a full TRPA permit will be required. The requirements of the [applicable project category](#) (e.g., single family residential, commercial, etc.) will apply. A generator installed as shown below (on a concrete pad) would require a full TRPA permit. If a permit is required, the project may be eligible for [coverage exemptions](#). These are allowances to reduce the amount of coverage counted against a property.



Source: nngenerator.com