

# Department of Human Services Information Bulletin

**To:** Agency Providers, Community Care Residence Providers, Distribution

**Date:** November 26, 2013

**Subject:** Use of Generators

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With the goal of keeping the Department of Human Services' partners and the people it serves informed about issues related to the health, welfare, and safety of the people we serve, we are issuing this information bulletin on the use of standby and portable generators. We thank you in advance for your efforts to improve the quality of services to the individuals we serve.

Sincerely,

Lauri Woodward, Director  
Office of Licensing

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## Background

**N.J.A.C. 10:44A-6.6(b) states:** The exterior of the residence and the surrounding grounds shall be properly maintained and shall be free from any hazard to health or safety.

**N.J.A.C. 10:44B-6.1(a) states:** The licensee shall take such measures to protect all persons in the residence from hazards to health, safety, and welfare that can be attributed to the location or environment of the residence.

**N.J.A.C. 10:44B-6.1(t) states:** The interior and exterior of the residence shall be maintained free of hazards to the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants.

**N.J.A.C. 10:44B-2.4(C)3. States:** The licensee shall immediately notify the placing agency and licensing agency in the event of operational breakdown, such as disruption of any vital utility, for example, heat, water, electricity, telephone, etc.

There are two main types of generators; permanently installed standby generators and gasoline-powered portable generators.

## **Standby Generators**

Standby Generators are permanently installed by a qualified technician in accordance with all local codes, permitting, and inspection requirements. They typically operate on natural gas or liquid propane, remain fixed in place outside the home, and may be turned on manually, or they may be programmed to switch on automatically in the case of a power outage even when no one is home.



## **Portable Generators**

Gasoline-powered, portable generators are typically smaller in size and power capacity than permanently installed generators. They are designed so that corded electrical devices may be plugged directly into them. Their use may require a permit in accordance with your local municipal codes.



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### Fire Safety Hazards of Portable Generators

- Portable generators produce dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) gas, which can be deadly if inhaled.
- Generators should never be used anywhere indoors, even if the area is ventilated.
- Overloading a generator may result in damage to appliances or fire.
- Connecting a portable generator directly into a home's wall outlet can cause dangerous electrical back-feed.
- Generators that are exposed to water or that are not properly grounded can cause electrocution.
- Gasoline for portable generators is highly flammable and may cause a fire when exposed to an open flame or when spilled on the hot generator.
- Over-taxed cords attached to a portable generator may cause a fire.

### Requirements for Use of Portable Gas Powered Generators

1. Portable generators shall not be plugged directly into a home's electrical receptacles (wall outlet).
2. Portable generators must be outside and shall not be near doors, vents, or open windows leading into the home.
3. Portable generators shall be properly grounded, dry, and shielded from contact from liquid.
4. Only heavy-duty electrical cords that are rated for outdoor use shall be plugged into portable generators.
5. Electrical cords shall not have any punctures or exposed wiring.
6. Cords running from portable generators shall be kept out of the way of foot traffic and shall not run underneath rugs.
7. The total electrical capacity of the generator must exceed the power requirements of the devices that the unit is supplying.
8. Fuel for portable generators shall be stored away from the home in clearly labeled and durable containers.
9. Devices that are hard-wired into a home's electrical system cannot be powered by a portable generator if no transfer switch is installed.
10. Transfer switch installation shall be by a qualified technician in accordance with all local codes, permitting, and inspection requirements.

**In order to adequately assure the health, safety and welfare of all occupants and individuals of a licensed home/program, the use or presence of any type of generator stand by or gas powered in a licensed setting shall be in accordance with the guidelines provided in this bulletin.**

The licensing standards N.J.A.C.10:44A, N.J.A.C.10:44B and N.J.A.C.10:44C are available at the Department of Human Services Office of Licensing Website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ool/licensing/>