

UNDERSTANDING BACKUP GENERATION

Reliable electric service is important to our customers, and we make every effort to prevent power outages. However, events beyond our control, such as natural disasters and high fire danger conditions, can sometimes cause outages. Backup electric generators can be a part of any continuity plan.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GENERATOR

There are two main types of backup generators you can consider. Each has its own characteristics, benefits and disadvantages which should be researched before purchasing.



Permanent standby generators are permanently connected to a building's electrical system. When a power outage occurs, these generators can either automatically or manually restore power to the building. Standby generators are typically powered by diesel or natural gas and are more expensive.



Portable generators run on gasoline or diesel and must be manually installed once a power outage occurs and are less expensive.

Most backup systems are designed to operate independently from SCE's electric system by using an automatic transfer switch to sense the loss of power from SCE and initiate power use from the generator. Once SCE's electric service is restored, the generator's automatic transfer switch will shift the customer's usage back to SCE and will signal the backup generator to shut off. Only operate these generators in well-ventilated outside areas, never indoors.

SAFETY, ABOVE ALL ELSE

Regardless of the type of generator you use, always consult with a licensed electric contractor for proper installation and setup. If you install or use your generator incorrectly, you risk damaging your property and endangering lives.

Backup generators must meet electrical codes and have a transfer switch to prevent dangerous backfeed of electricity onto SCE's power lines. Backfeed onto power lines can endanger the lives of SCE crews who may be working on downed power line.

For Portable Generators:

- During a power outage, plug appliances directly into a portable generator.
- Never attempt to connect directly to household circuits as this creates backfeed and is dangerous.
- Do not plug directly into the electrical panel, connect to a portable generator using a properly sized extension cord.

SCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to installing a backup generator that will be connected to your home or business electrical system, you must notify SCE of the location of the generator by completing and submitting an application for interconnection to SCE pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 119085 (b).



For questions and to apply, visit sce.com/backupsystems
You can also email InterconnectionQA@sce.com or call 626-302-3688.