



Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International

West Des Moines Fire Department FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

EMERGENCY GENERATORS

Installation of emergency generators for commercial buildings or uses requires approval prior to installation. If the generator is diesel powered, a Flammable/Combustible Liquids Permit (\$50) is required prior to installation. A site plan approval is required for all generator installations.

During the final inspection, an emergency shutdown of the building power will be conducted. This shutdown is to test the time it takes to transfer to emergency power (must be within 10 seconds) and also to test the emergency shut down switch as described below. Only cold generator starts will be conducted. The generator must not have been in operation for 12 hours prior to the conducting the acceptance test. Reference: WDM IFC Fire Code Supplement 2015 section 604.8 for emergency shut down and section 604.9 for signage.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING ONLY APPLIES TO BUILDINGS THAT HAVE 3 SOURCES OF POWER, WHICH ARE, UTILITY, UPS AND GENERATOR.

Emergency generator shut down switches shall be installed in a location approved by the Fire Marshal. The switch(s), when activated, shall shut down the generator and any devices or equipment associated with said generator. It is important to note that this switch(s) would only be activated in a catastrophic event of the building. The building owner and/or property manager would be consulted by our Incident Commander prior to activating the switch if on site.

OTHER ITEMS TO INCLUDE SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Sub-base tanks and above ground fuel tanks are limited to 1500 gals. Tanks shall be double wall and UL listed or equal listing.
2. Generator shall have an external emergency shut down switch that doesn't require a key to operate.
3. Signage shall be placed on main electrical disconnect as well as local breaker panel tied to generator power to denoted generator power.
4. Signage shall be placed on doors to electrical rooms and rooms with emergency power in them to denoted generator power.





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SIGNAGE DESIGN:



MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS:

3” high by 4” wide black lettering on yellow background. Font size to be 36 for “CAUTION” bolded and 28 for other verbiage. Font style Times New Roman.

For additional information, please contact the Fire Marshal at 515-273-0643.

