

Permit Processing Policy on Permits for Permanently Installed Generators for Dwelling Units

The increased permitting activity on Permanently Installed Generators for Dwelling Units, as the result of recent storms whereby many people were without electrical service for several days, has created numerous questions & inquiries from both installers and staff as to the permitting process & installation requirements. The following will be our Permit Processing Policy regarding such installations:

➤ **An Electrical Permit must be obtained to install a Permanently Installed Generator for a Dwelling Unit.**

On projects located in Unincorporated County, the Permit Applicant must provide 4 copies of a site plan showing the proposed location of the unit. The location of these generators must meet the setback requirements for the zoning district that the property is located within. The County Zoning Official shall sign-off on the Electrical Permit Application before it is issued. This process mirrors the process we use within Unincorporated County for outside above-ground tanks processed under a mechanical permit. Caution, the Mechanical Code has a general requirement that anything producing exhaust fumes harmful to one's health needs to be located at least 10 feet away from an operable window &/or fresh air intake opening for the building, thus within Unincorporated County these units will need to be in the rear yard area unless the house is on a fairly large lot/parcel of ground.

➤ **A Mechanical Permit must also be obtained if the generator is not a stand alone type and requires gas piping and/or exhaust/ventilation ductwork as part of the required installation.**

The County Zoning Official shall sign off on the Mechanical Permit Application if it is received before the required electrical permit.

The above permits (both electrical & mechanical) may be issued Over-the-Counter, once Zoning has approved (Unincorporated Only). Permit Processing will insure a mailing label type note, or equivalent, is affixed/attached to the application that includes the following conditions/warnings:

PERMANENTLY INSTALLED GENERATORS FOR DWELLING UNITS

- An electrical permit must be obtained to install the generator.
- A mechanical permit must be obtained, if generator is not a stand alone type, to install gas piping and/or exhaust/ventilation ductwork, if any required.
- The generator exhaust pipe must discharge away from and be a minimum of 10'-0" from any operable window &/or fresh air intake opening for the building.
- For installations located within contracting Municipalities, the installer is responsible for complying with the Municipal Zoning requirements and obtaining any permits that may be required by the Municipality before work commences.