



Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International

**West Des Moines Fire Department  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

**EMERGENCY GENERATORS**

WDM Fire Code 2015

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 THREE SOURCES OF POWER: UTILITY, UPS AND GENERATOR.**

Emergency shut down switches shall be installed in a location approved by the Fire Marshal. The switch(s), when activated, shall render the entire building without power, to include the generator and UPS. 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.

Exception: If generator backs up total building power, then a keyed emergency shut down shall be supplied at a location designed by the Fire Marshal.

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.

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.

