

North Carolina Healthcare Facility Emergency Preparedness Requirements

Hospitals:

- Hospitals require a generator per licensure rule 10A NCAC 13B.6227(f)(1). An onsite fuel supply of 24 hours must be provided.

Ambulatory Surgery Centers:

- Ambulatory Surgery Centers are required to provide a Type 1 essential electrical system per 10A NCAC 13C.1407(c)(5) which could consist of a generator or fuel cell system. A 24 hour fuel supply is required.

Endoscopy Only Ambulatory Surgery Centers:

- Endoscopy Only Ambulatory Surgery Centers that do not have any critical care areas (perform surgical procedures) have no requirement for a generator, however they are asked to provide power or lighting as necessary to finish a procedure during a power loss. This usually is in the form of 90 minute battery pack wall mounted units. Occasionally, a UPS unit carrying a certain amount of building light fixtures substitutes for the battery pack wall units.

Nursing Homes:

- Nursing Homes require a generator per licensure rule 10A NCAC 13D.3402(2). An onsite fuel supply of 72 hours must be provided. A nursing home that has a fire pump must have a generator per state licensure rules. For most other buildings the NC Electrical Code only requires a “reliable source of power” (see article 695 in the electrical code).

Assisted Living (Homes for the Aged):

- Assisted living does not require a generator per licensure rules, however many facilities elect to install one or provide a means to “plug” a portable generator (like a trailer mount unit) into the building wiring distribution system in case of an emergency or extended outage.

Hospice:

- Hospice inpatient care requires a generator with a 72 hour fuel supply per 10A NCAC 13K.1208. Residential hospice care does not require a generator. [Hospice licensure rules allow for inpatient or residential care. Inpatient beds are equipped like nursing home beds – similar electrical requirements. Residential care hospice beds do not have nearly as many stringent requirements.]

Jails:

- The electrical system is required by 10A NCAC 14J.1219 to have an auxiliary power supply. This is typically accomplished through a generator. The jail facility decides how comprehensive they want the emergency power provisions to be. In new jail projects it is not uncommon to see large generators supplying power and lighting to pretty much the entire facility. There is no requirement for a fuel supply over 2 hours which is required by the electrical code.

Abortion Clinics:

- No requirement

Family Care Home/ Maternity Home:

- No requirement for generator, but merit points awarded towards facility rating if installed or contract in place.

ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities):

- No requirement

Mental Health Home:

- No requirement for this residential facility.

CCRC:

- CCRCs (Continuing Care Retirement Communities) usually have several building components: single family or duplex homes, independent living apts., an assisted living building, a nursing home, and an assembly occupancy like a central clubhouse where most of the dining occurs. The nursing home, if it is a licensed facility and not private pay, must meet the licensure requirement for a generator. As mentioned above, a licensed assisted living facility is not required to have a generator although most CCRC communities do provide a larger genset covering several buildings on the campus. Independent living apartments do not by code or licensure rules require a generator. However, DHSR typically asks what emergency plan the facility has for the IL residents in the event of an extended power outage. Often they will have a smaller generator providing limited heat in the central corridors of the apartment building or will move residents to larger spaces within the community, such as in the clubhouse, where emergency power may have been provided. Although, per code, the assembly occupancy building (clubhouse) is not required to have a generator to my knowledge. Many do in order to keep food service going.