

POLICY FOR OPERATION OF GENERATORS SPECIAL OUTDOOR EVENTS AND MOBILE FOOD OPERATIONS

The Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Permit requires the Municipality of Anchorage to “identify at least one specific activity within their respective jurisdictions where storm water discharges are not adequately addressed and develop performance standards for the activity”. The enclosed *Policy for Operation of Generators, Special Outdoor Events and Mobile Food Operations* has been developed in compliance with this requirement.

The need for the policy arose during an investigation of illicit discharge into University Lake where Watershed Management Services (WMS) staff were called out to search for a fuel source flowing into the lake. The problem report indicated a mobile coffee truck was filling a generator and spilling fuel on the ground in the Native Medical Centre parking lot. By the time, responders reached the site a clear source pathway was no longer present. However, the situation highlighted an area in Municipal code where an operational performance standard was needed.

Working with the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Fire Protection Division, WMS researched the process by which mobile food and beverage vehicles are licensed and regulated, and they identified a method, compatible with other regulations, to include secondary containment in fueling of portable generators used in mobile operations. AFD indicated that a policy related to pollutant management would need to be generated separately by WMS, but they would implement the requirement along with their own regulations for special outdoor events and mobile food operations, laid out in AFD Policies, 18-001 and 20-001. AFD implementation includes permitting and inspection, and we agreed that a requirement to place a tray or absorbent mat under a portable generator was a relatively low-cost addition to the community’s licensing requirements and an efficient way to improve performance for an activity in the Municipality where storm water discharges were not adequately addressed.



POLICY FOR OPERATION OF GENERATORS
SPECIAL OUTDOOR EVENTS AND MOBILE FOOD OPERATIONS

In order to increase environmental safety and protect the storm sewer from fuel spills and chronic oil leaks, the following requirement for portable power generators used by mobile and outdoor food and drink vendors shall be met:

Definitions:

- Mobile food and drink vendor: Vehicles (including pull along trailers) that contain generator(s) which operate equipment that produces and/or prepares food or beverages to the public. Exception: vehicles intended for private recreation are not considered mobile food preparation vehicles.
- Outdoor event operator: A structure, canopy, enclosure or shelter with or without sidewalls or drops, which operate equipment that produces and/or prepares food or beverages to the public.
- Portable generator: fuel powered electric generation system used for running equipment.
- Secondary Containment or Absorbent mat: leak proof tray or absorbent pad placed under generator to catch fuel and oil to prevent release to ground.

I. Fuel Operated Generator Used in Mobile Food and Drink Preparation Vehicle:

- a. Mobile Food and Drink Vehicles shall use an underlying containment tray or absorbent mat for catchment of spills and fluid leaks while operating and/or preparing generators for use in food/drink preparation. The secondary containment shall be placed beneath the generator during maintenance and operation.

II. Fuel Operated Generator Used in Special Outdoor Event:

- a. Special Outdoor event vendors shall use an underlying containment tray or absorbent mat for catchment of spills and fluid leaks while operating and/or preparing generators for use in food/drink preparation. The secondary containment shall be placed beneath the generator during maintenance and operation.

Policy implementation will be performed by AFD Fire Prevention in conjunction with AFD Policies 18-001 and 20-001.

Approved by: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____

