SEPARATION OF GENERATORS

Use this section to answer the following questions:

… Are the requirements found in Sec. 3104.19, *Separation of Generators*, applicable to a tent 400 sq. ft. or less?

… Does a generator have to be separated a minimum of 20 ft. from a tent in excess of 400 sq. ft.?

… Is Sec. 3104.17, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids*, applicable to a tent in excess of 400 sq. ft.?
GENERATORS AND OTHER INTERNAL COMBUSTION POWER SOURCES SHALL BE SEPARATED FROM TENTS OR MEMBRANE STRUCTURES BY A MINIMUM OF 20 FEET AND SHALL BE ISOLATED FROM CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC BY FENCING, ENCLOSURE OR OTHER APPROVED MEANS.
“Scope” Tents

- This scenario is 2 “Scope” tents; each 400 sq. ft. or less with some sort of electrical power need inside the tents.
- Due to the size of these tents and the activity inside the tents.
- The scope is the only applicable code section in CH. 31.
THE 3 CODE SECTIONS AMENDED IN THE SCOPE ARE 3104.7, 3104.15.5 AND 3104.15.6

THESE 3 CODE SECTIONS PERTAIN TO OPEN OR EXPOSED FLAME AND / OR COOKING

SEPARATION OF GENERATORS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OPEN FLAME AND / OR COOKING, THEREFORE,

DUE TO THE WAY THE SCOPE HAS BEEN WRITTEN, THESE TENTS DO NOT HAVE TO MEET ANYTHING IN CH. 31
“Scope” Tents

- DUE TO THE SCOPE, THIS GAS–FUELED GENERATOR DOES **NOT** HAVE TO MEET SEC. 3104.19

- DUE TO THE SCOPE, THIS GAS–FUELED GENERATOR DOES **NOT** HAVE TO MEET SEC. 3104.17

- THIS SLIDE PERTAINS TO ALL GENERATORS AND OTHER INTERNAL COMBUSTION POWER SOURCES
“Scope” Tents

- SEC. 604.2.9, MEMBRANE STRUCTURES, WOULD NEVER BE APPLICABLE IN A “SCOPE” TENT BECAUSE EXIT SIGNS ARE NOT REQUIRED. DUE TO THE WAY THE SCOPE HAS BEEN WRITTEN, SEC. 3103.12.6 IS NOT ENFORCEABLE. THEREFORE, SEC. 3103.12.6.1, EXIT SIGN ILLUMINATION, WOULD NOT APPLY.
“Scope” Tents

SUMMARY: the following code sections govern this scenario

- **Sec. 3101.1 – Scope**

  THIS IS THE ONLY CODE SECTION THAT APPLIES IN CH. 31.

- **Sec. 3104.17 – Flammable and combustible liquids**

  Not applicable to this scenario.

- **Sec. 3104.19 – Separation of generators**

  Not applicable to this scenario.

- **Sec. 604.2.9 – Membrane structures**

  Not applicable to this scenario.
“Regular” Tents

- This scenario is a “regular” tent; in excess of 400 sq. ft.
- With some sort of electrical power need inside the tent
- Due to the size of this tent, all of Chapter 31 is applicable
- Therefore, Section 3104.19, *Separation of Generators*, applies
“Regular” Tents

- This generator or any other internal comb power source and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.
- Shall be separated from the tent by a minimum of 20 feet.
- And shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

Sec. 3104.19
Finally, there is one last code section to study when discussing generators/emergency and standby power systems. Sec. 604.2.9 states, “Emergency power shall be provided for exit signs in temporary tents and membrane structures in accordance with Sec. 3103.12.6.1.” This section from Ch. 31 allows either internally or externally illuminated exit signs depending upon the situation. The text from Sec. 604.2.9 would apply to the externally illuminated exit signs.
SUMMARY: the following code sections govern this scenario

- **Sec. 3101.1 – Scope**

- **Sec. 3104.17 – Flammable and combustible liquids**
  - Use
  - Flammable and combustible liquid storage
  - Refueling
  - All applicable to this scenario.

- **Sec. 3104.19 – Separation of generators**
  - Applicable to this scenario.

- **Sec. 604.2.9 – Membrane structures**
  - Applicable to this scenario.
Chapter 31, 2014 Ed.
Indiana Fire Code

Tents And Other Membrane Structures

Presented by the State Fire Marshal’s Office
Division of Fire and Building Safety