

Learning Alert - The Use of Petrol Generators

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

Recently there has been reports of the use of petrol generators whilst in situ in the rear of vans onsite.

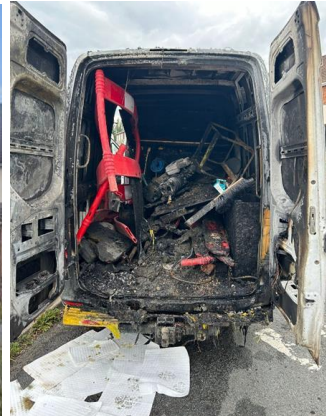
Generators produce exhaust gases, including carbon monoxide, which is a colorless and odorless gas that is poisonous to humans and animals. If a generator is used in a confined space, such as a van, without proper ventilation, the buildup of carbon monoxide could be deadly.

It's important to know that a portable generator can catch fire. Improper use of portable generators, spilled fuels, inadequate maintenance, or parts such as armatures, brushes and commutators that begin to spark are all hazards.

Due to recent events, there has been concerns raised by the client as this is not deemed as best practice.

Though some may not associate generators as an inherently dangerous piece of equipment, see below what can happen if something doesn't go to plan.

Photos:



Remember:

- Before use **remove** generators from your van and place them in the fresh air on level ground in a plant nappy or enviropad.
- Generators **must be** turned off and allowed to cool briefly before refuelling.
- Never overfill the fuel tank and always replace the filler cap once completed.
- Refuel outdoors in a well-ventilated area.
- Clean funnels must be used when refuelling.
- Gloves must be worn. Never smoke while refuelling.
- Refueling **must** be done **at least 10 meters** from a surface water drain or watercourse.
- Spill kits must be available.
- All fuel **must be** stored in correct containers, on drip trays away from the operating generator and out of direct sun light.
- If fuel is spilt during refuelling, make sure that the spill is cleaned / soaked up before starting the engine.
- A dry powder fire extinguisher must be available when refuelling the generator.

