

Taking a lesson from Superstorm Sandy

September 3, 2014
Suburban Trends

Dear Editor:

The recent announcement that New Jersey plans to purchase 52 portable generators with a \$2.5 million FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant shows a diligent and concerted effort to ensure that consumers are not left sitting in hours-long gas lines should we experience another storm like Hurricane Sandy.

The 52 portable generators will be available for use by gasoline service stations in conjunction with the state's Retail Fuel Station Energy Efficiency Program, which offers two kinds of grants to qualifying gasoline stations (based on station location and underground fuel storage capacity): up to \$65,000 for the installation of a permanent back-up generator; or up to \$15,000 to install quick connect technology, which will allow the station owner to hook up a portable emergency generator, exactly like the ones that the state has just purchased.

It is also important to note that, in addition to the widespread loss of power that occurred in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, many gas stations were left unable to receive deliveries of gasoline, due to flooding and extensive damage at terminals and refineries across the Northeast. Recognizing this additional hurdle from the outset, the Christie Administration also pledged to work with Homeland Security experts to make New Jersey's fuel supply and distribution systems more resilient, ensuring a more reliable source of fuel when needed.

With this two-pronged approach, I am confident that New Jersey will be more prepared to face whatever storms or severe weather might come our way in the future.

Sal Risalvato,
Executive Director,
NJ Gasoline, Convenience Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA)

Editor's note: NJGCA is an organization representing independent gas stations and auto-repair shops.