

POWER SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY



SAN MARCOS EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER

Location

San Marcos, California

Market

Protecting Public Safety

Unique Obstacle

Ensure backup power for an around-the-clock, 365 days a year emergency services center

Units

300 kW Diesel Genset

Solution

300 kW Diesel genset that provides full back-up power. Had a scheduled outage of more than 5 hours and the generator system functioned perfectly throughout that period.

Contact

Readers who may have similar application challenges and would like to discuss this success are invited to call 1-844-ASK-GNRC (1-844-275-4672)

Emergency Power for Emergency Services

Protecting public safety and well being is an around-the-clock responsibility, 365 days a year. Being able to respond to all sorts of emergencies requires first class equipment, trained personnel, and a fully supportive infrastructure that will be sufficient to meet any need. To ensure that its new Emergency Services Training Center keeps operating in the event of a power outage, the municipality of San Marcos, California relies upon standby power from Generac Power Systems.

The San Marcos complex is truly state of the art, with plenty of space for a variety of operations. "This is a multi-purpose facility consisting of three different buildings and additional open space for trucks and equipment," says Mark Bales, facilities maintenance engineer for the City of San Marcos.

The centerpiece of this municipal campus is a 32,500 square foot building

that houses the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, which is under contract to provide police protection to the City of San Marcos and its 60,000 residents. "It's a fully functioning station," Bales explains. "There are administrative offices, workplaces for detectives and traffic safety officers, briefing rooms, evidence and record storage rooms, locker rooms, a weight training room, and holding cells. The building is also designed to function as an Emergency Operations Center."

Palomar Community College operates and administers both its police and fire training programs from this facility, as well. "The Palomar Academy occupies about 5,000 square feet inside the main building," Bales says, "and also uses a separate building nearby with two classrooms and instructor office space."

The highest profile building within the complex is the multi-story fire training tower. "There are no fire department staff stationed here, but you'd never know that by the number of fire engines that frequent the place," Bales says.

"The San Marcos Fire Department, Palomar Police & Fire Academy, and many other local fire departments train here, as well as the Sheriff's Department and their SWAT teams."

The seventy-foot tall structure was built with a variety of features for different kinds of emergency practice. "The tower has a smoke generator for rescue

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training, a burn room for real fire fighting practice, and walls for climbing or rappelling,” Bales explains. “There are stairs with balconies at different elevations and wooden props for smoke ventilation practice. The water pumping system uses recycled well water and can be used for hose tests and fire engine pump testing. The tower also has facilities for practicing hose lays and ladder drills.”



To keep this complex operational in the event of a utility outage, a 300 kilowatt Generac diesel genset provides full backup power. “Our Generac system can provide 100% of the power needed to operate this facility,” says Bales, “including all cooling and heating needs. This standby power system is load tested every month and inspected bi-weekly. On one occasion, we had a scheduled outage that lasted more than five hours, and the generator system functioned perfectly throughout that period. I don’t think most people in the complex were even aware that we were running on standby power.”