

Deployment opportunities supporting Temporary Emergency Power

Hello USACE Teammates!

My name is B.J. Parkey and I currently serve as the Deputy Operations Project Manager for the Northern Area of Tulsa District, Southwestern Division. Recently, I was asked to provide a brief overview of my experiences while serving as a team member on my District's Temporary Emergency Power Planning and Response Team (PRT).

My involvement with Tulsa District's Power PRT began over a decade ago. At that time, I was a Natural Resources Specialist (Park Ranger) located at one of our lakes in Tulsa District. Being a Ranger, we are exposed to several different types of emergency situations during the performance of our duties. Emergency situations could relate to conducting flood watch at our dams, assisting with locating a lost child in a campground, first on the scene to a recreational accident or responding to a vehicular traffic collision and everything else in between. Being able to perform critical thinking skills to make rapid and conscientious, perhaps life changing decisions, is an excellent quality of being a Ranger. While working through an emergency, possessing the ability to communicate effectively and clearly articulate a set of requirements, provide direction, give guidance is essential to the success of the situation at hand.

Emergency management and working in sometimes austere environments has something that has intrigued me since working for the USACE. Prior deployments while serving as a Park Ranger included a 5-month deployment to Iraq and a 2-month deployment to New Orleans working debris cleanup after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. So when our District's Emergency Management office sent out a data call to recruit new members to the District's Temporary Emergency Power PRT, I was very interested. Being a member of the PDT was in addition to my official position description of a Park Ranger. As a PDT member for Temporary Emergency Power, you might be called upon at any given time to support the Team and the Nation.

A little background of Temporary Emergency Power PRT's. The USACE has the capability to provide state and local officials, Tribal Nations and U.S. Territories broad support for their unmet temporary emergency power needs during certain disaster situations. This support ranges from technical expertise/assistance through complete management of an emergency power mission including the procurement, installation, operation and maintenance of generators. USACE assets include elements of the U.S. Army 249th Engineer Battalion "Prime Power", Subject Matter Experts (SME's), Emergency Power Planning & Response Teams (PRTs) from across USACE, USACE-contracted forces, and USACE Deployable Tactical Operations System (DTOS) for communications. USACE also coordinates with other Federal partners such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). These assets can provide Technical Assistance before, during or after an event which includes, but is not limited to:

- Assessing emergency power requirements needed at a facility
- Assessing conditions and capabilities of existing emergency generation equipment
- Troubleshooting, repairing, and operating emergency generation/distribution equipment
- Installation, operation, fueling and maintenance of emergency power generation equipment

- Safety inspections of electrical distribution systems and equipment
- Assessing damaged electrical distribution systems and equipment
- All hazards emergency power planning

The execution of a power mission in an emergency involves the combined efforts of a Planning and Response Team (PRT), which includes the 249th, civilian management teams, DTOS, the Advance Contracting Initiative (ACI) contractor, as well as our Federal and state partners. During these missions, the Technical Assistance items discussed above are brought to bear along with:

- Provide assistance to state and local officials, Tribal Nations and U.S. Territories in determining priorities for assessing and installing generators at critical public facilities
- Assessing facilities to determine suitability for a generator, location for its placement and matching with the correct generator configuration
- Preparation, hauling, and installing generators
- Operation, fueling, service, and maintenance of installed generators
- De-installation and return of generators. This can also include remediation of the generator installation site to its pre-installation site condition
- Service, maintenance, and repair of generators prior to their return to long-term storage to ensure they are Fully Mission Capable (FMC). This may also include load testing
- Replenishing any Bill of Materials (BOM) used during execution of the mission

Operational maintenance of FEMA generators is performed by a combination of 249th, PRT, and contractual support. Limited generator procurement and/or leasing can be performed by USACE through a contracting team which has pre-established contracting tools.

During Emergency Power response activities, facilities requiring generators are typically prioritized in the following order:

1. Life Saving Facilities (911 centers, police, fire stations, and medical facilities)
2. Life Sustaining Facilities (water and wastewater treatment and pumping facilities)
3. Other municipal facilities to reinstitute local command and control and post-event recovery

A video highlighting the USACE Temporary Emergency Power mission has been developed to assist emergency planners in understanding the capabilities and implementation of temporary emergency power missions in a disaster: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVh3A19Ukdg>

The video mentioned there are 7 Districts within USACE that support Temporary Emergency Power missions. Those Districts include Pittsburgh, Memphis, Walla Walla, Honolulu, Tulsa, Savannah and Albuquerque. However, USACE has multiple Planning and Response teams that provide support in either a response effort (Temporary Emergency Power or Structural Safety Specialist to Urban Search and Rescue) or in a recovery effort (Debris Removal, Temporary Roofing, Temporary Housing and Infrastructure Assessment).

Over the years, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent assisting our District's Power PRT. I am very humbled and grateful for the opportunities that I have experienced in helping others. If you believe this kind of work is within your skill set, I encourage you to visit with your supervisor to learn more about

what your District has to offer in the way of volunteer opportunities supporting emergency operations. I hope that you find your volunteerism as rewarding as I have.