Issue:
Questions have arisen regarding when an electrical permit is required for power for a temporary event. The question typically is related to whether a portable generator requires a permit. However, it is important to note that temporary event power often includes the installation of premises wiring to distribute the event power to utilization equipment located remote from the portable generator. Although the temporary event power source is often a portable generator; the question of whether a permit is required would apply to event power supplied by the existing premises wiring system or from a portable or vehicle-mounted generator.

Guideline:
In general, all electrical work requires a permit unless exempted from this requirement by PBCC 105.2.

Any work that includes the installation of premises wiring or the connection of power to a premises wiring system shall require a permit. The scope of the permit shall include the premises wiring as well as any separately derived source of power, (e.g., a generator). This applies whether the power source is a service, feeder, or branch circuit (from an existing premises wiring system), or a portable or vehicle-mounted generator.

Work that includes ONLY the installation of cord- and plug-connected utilization equipment to permanently installed receptacles is exempt from requiring a permit. [PBCC 105.2 Electrical (1)] The permanently installed receptacle(s) may be either part of the existing premises wiring system or be part of the portable generator assembly or vehicle-mounted generator assembly. The cord- and plug-connected utilization equipment is that which is listed and identified as suitable for cord and plug installation. For purposes of this guideline; the use of cam-lock type single conductor cables to supply equipment will not be considered as cord- and plug-connected utilization equipment.

Note: "premises wiring (system)" and "utilization equipment" are defined in PEC Article 100.