

## Are you setting up a Marquee?



When setting up a marquee in any grounds there are a few important rules especially where power supplies are concerned. Typically a wedding party will have the ability to serve drinks throughout the day, this will mean that a bar requires fridges, chiller's and pumps etc. The catering will have a requirement to provide a hot meal requiring cookers, possibly fridges and washing services, tea and coffee provision throughout will require tea urns and kettles / coffee machines. A band or disco in the evening will have considerable lighting and sound power requirements. Also in many cases bathroom and or toilet facilities that are hired in have power requirements and also the marquee itself will have to be lit internally and externally at the exit points etc.

All of these require power at differing times, but as night falls the power requirements increase because of the lighting required at all the service points mentioned above, and you cannot simply supply enough current through 13 Amp extension leads connected to the house or wherever the power supply is coming from. This is because a volt drop occurs across the length of the cable and where a volt drop occurs there is a marked drop in the current that can be drawn from that individual cable.... the laws of physics cannot overcome this issue.

In a house a cooker typically is wired to a 32 Amp, 240 volt supply so if you are providing for over say 80 – 100 people you will need at least 2 or 3 cookers and therefore need 2 or 3 times the 32A supply, so it will be essential to have typically an 80 -100KVA generator on site to provide sufficient power. It must be capable of running all the services mentioned above and including the packing away of the entertainment or catering staff etc often early in the morning. Suffice to say it could easily run for 12 hours.

Please ensure when you hire out the generator that an appropriate distribution panel is supplied and that there is enough cabling to reach each end of the marquee from where ever the distribution point is and thus to each of the service points mentioned. It would be extremely likely that a service tent and or smaller marquee is provided for the catering element so it also must be able to reach the service points and obviously the generator needs to be placed far enough away so as not to be able to be heard or allow exhaust fumes to penetrate the marquee.

Cloud Nine provides its own cabling that can easily interface with a 16 amp, 32 Amp (preferred) single phase supply, and alternatively it can run from a 440 Volt, 3 phase supply also. Cloud Nine recommends the Silver and or Gold packages for such events in marquees. The disco placed at one end will completely cover the marquee's width normally 12 mtrs / 39½ ft and provides a truly spectacular show.

Please also remember these generators are between 1.5 and 2 tonnes in weight so your grounds must have safe access and egress by a lorry with a HIAB (Crane) to deliver such a large weight. If this lorry can get in then the chances are the lorry that the marquee is coming on, entertainment and catering etc can also access and egress in and out of the grounds safely. If this cannot be achieved it often leads to unreasonable distances and time being covered on foot over uneven ground with very heavy equipment's which can be dangerous in inclement weather. On this issue alone Cloud Nine will always conduct a site visit prior to accepting a booking.

The flooring on the marquee should also be adequate enough to stop any rain water or in ground moisture seeping through to carpets or matting. From late September onwards heat generated by party goers tends to rise and condensate on the marquee roof and drip, therefore it should be lined to prevent such an occurrence and it also protects the electrical equipment's and effects etc that may be left in the marquee overnight.