



# In The Face of an Emergency



A Better Answer to  
Providing Emergency  
Power



“The terrible events of September 11, 2001 gave many in this country their first reasons to think about the necessity of being prepared for emergencies. For others, the necessity of being prepared for disaster has always been a way of life.”



While an abundant supply of electricity is what makes our modern life-style possible, during an emergency, electricity will be among the first things lost. Whether the danger comes from a flood, a lightning strike, hurricane winds or something man-made and more sinister, the effect is the same: any interruption of the electrical supply brings modern life to a standstill. Being prepared for this event means that very high priority buildings, like hospitals, communication centers, and police stations, will often have an installed back-up emergency generator. However the “solution” of providing each location with its own generator is not only expensive, but it brings its own set of challenges:

- the need to test and maintain the back-up generators.
- the need to make good decisions about which buildings and functions must be provided with back-up power and which can be allowed to do without.
- once the installation is complete, there is no flexibility in what locations will be provided with back-up power.

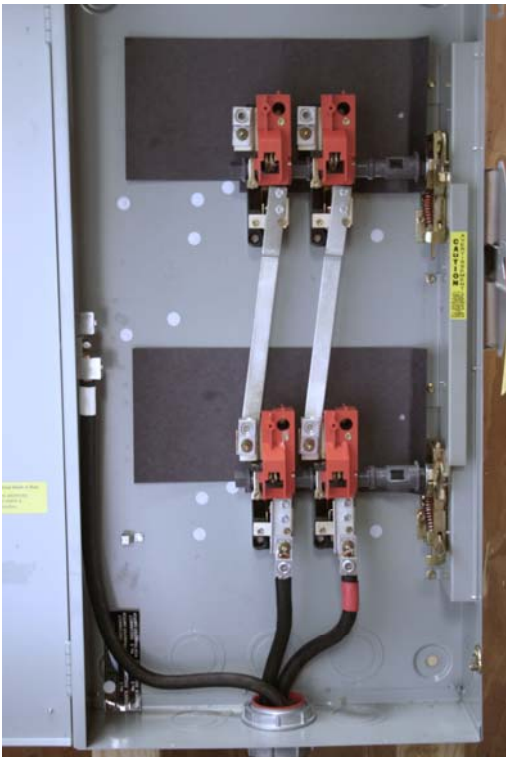


Most importantly, the lack of a proper testing and maintenance program will prevent even the most expensive back-up system from providing adequate protection when power is lost. The preventive maintenance services needed are numerous: testing the “auto-start” systems, performing battery maintenance, performing cooling system maintenance, even insuring the fuel supply is clean and fresh. While there are many service companies who will perform monthly testing on these systems, the service can be expensive.



A more flexible and economical system was needed by a large Louisiana municipal utility system. They knew that the pumping stations for supplying water and the lift stations for removing sewage were necessities. However, they realized that providing back-up power to every pump and lift station was neither practical nor affordable. Even in areas where State or Federal grant money might be available to purchase the gen-sets, the cost of maintaining the many scattered units would be prohibitive.

The solution chosen was to provide a small fleet of trailer based diesel generator sets which would be stored at a central facility. This enables the gen-sets to be routinely tested and maintained at a minimal cost, yet would ensure high reliability of the units when they were needed. Each water pump and lift station was provided with a power transfer switch and a Cam-lok power interconnect station designed by **J Custom Supply, Inc.** of Zachary, LA. Thus each pump or lift station can be operated when needed by a relatively few gen-sets which are time shared between multiple locations. There is an increase in flexibility in that the gen-sets can be made available to provide emergency power for lights or housekeeping functions at the scene of an emergency that does not involve the loss of electric power, such as a train wreck, bridge failure or priority highway repairs.

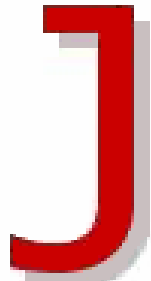


The need for flexible emergency power systems is not limited to South Louisiana. From Washington State to South Florida, rural and metropolitan areas alike may need emergency power due to snow storms, heavy rains and flooding, power blackouts or and act of deliberate destruction of parts of the National power grid. The loss of television and the use of the microwave oven are only nuisances. However, the loss of water for fire fighting, or the loss of the ability to maintain basic sanitation systems, are both unacceptable and unnecessary.

Here is an example of an installed Transfer Switch. The lower panel opens to reveal Cam-lok connectors for attaching the power cables from the gen-set. The switches, the interconnect cabinet and the custom power cables were supplied by J Custom Supply, Inc. Systems are available for single or three phase, 120, 240, or 480 volts with cables and connectors rated for 150 to 1100 amps.



For all of your power distribution and interconnection needs call the professionals at J Custom Supply, Inc. Let us show you how we can save you money and down time with our custom panels, switches, and quality connectors. We offer custom made cable assemblies from high quality components to ensure dependable service.



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