

Do You Know How to Manually Startup and Transfer Generator Power on Your Poultry Farm?

If utility power fails and your back-up generator does not start then what should you do? Your first inclination might not be the correct action to take?

Did you know starting a “stand-by” rated generator while under a full electrical load can cause serious or fatal damage to the generator itself – possibly rendering it useless to power the poultry houses? This risk can be avoided by following proper procedures when manually starting and transferring power on a farm. (See instructions on opposite page)

Lightning and power surges can and often do cause damage to the automatic transfer switch and the generator control panel. When this happens, the generator is often operable but it will fail to come online to power the poultry houses automatically. Hence, one of the biggest components to any grower’s “Back-up to the Back-up Plan” is to know how to manually start a generator and manually transfer the power from the generator to the poultry houses – and to **do** this without causing damage to the system.

In effort to help guide growers through this hectic and stressful time, we at the NPTC, with help from experienced generator service professionals, have produced the facing one-page guideline sheet. This guide is intended to be posted in a prominent place in the generator shed. We suggest posting it on the door of the automatic transfer switch itself. If a situation were to arise where a grower **needed** to manually start and transfer power supply over to generator power, **he** can easily refer to this sheet to remind **himself** of the proper procedures to follow and avoid the risk of damaging the generator or the transfer switch, and hopefully saving birds. Every grower should develop **his** own “Back-up to the Back-up” plan and practice the procedures so that only minimal thought is needed to properly execute it when the time comes.

Instructions for using this “Back-up to the Back-up Plan”:

1. Cut this sheet out of the magazine.
2. Tape it to your Automatic Transfer Switch with the opposite page facing out.
3. Get familiar with the instructions on the opposite page and even practice them when you are out of birds.
4. Write your generator service person’s emergency phone number on the sheet in case you can’t figure out why your generator won’t start.

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For more information on generator service visit www.poultryhouse.com*

Emergency Manual Power Transfer

IF Generator Does Not Start or Automatic Transfer Switch is Not Working - Follow These Steps:

1. **Before doing anything else** – turn off the breakers / disconnect switches located in the generator shed - for every house individually.
2. Determine if the Automatic Transfer Switch (A.T.S.) is in the “Normal” power position. This means it is expecting power from the Utility Company.
3. If so, leave it there. If NOT, Manually rotate the A.T.S. into the “Normal” or “Neutral” position. ****DO NOT CRANK THE GENERATOR with A.T.S. in “EMERGENCY” Position !**
4. Attempt to crank the generator using the manual start switch located on its control panel. *If this fails, use the bypass key-switch located on the side, to start the generator. Check battery if it does not crank with switch.
5. Once cranked and running smoothly, IF the A.T.S. does not rotate to “Emergency” power automatically, manually rotate the switch to “Emergency” or Generator power.
6. If generator continues to run smoothly, individually turn on the first house at the breaker / disconnect you previously used to turn it off.
7. Once the generator picks a house up and is running smoothly, turn on the next house – do this one by one until every house is back on line.
8. **CAUTION!** - When the generator has to be started or transferred with manual procedures, the automatic controls may have been damaged and the generator’s automatic safety features may not work. Careful observation of the entire system is necessary while in this state of operation. It is important to **CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PERSON IMMEDIATELY!**

GENERATOR SERVICE PERSON: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER: _____



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