

## Select an Automatic Transfer Switch

- It should be equal in capacity to that of the incoming service.
  - ◆ If your main breaker is 200 amps, you need a 200 amp switch even if your generator is only capable of 60 amps.
- Four time delays—Start, Stop, Transfer, Re-transfer



**Call us!**  
**(816) 373-4768**

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# Call us for a consultation

- **Inspections**
- **Training**
- **Code Compliance**
- **Purchasing**
- **Maintenance Planning**

## (816) 373-4768

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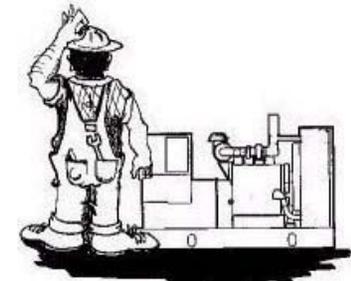
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**STANDBY POWER SOLUTIONS**

# STUDY GUIDE

## How to Buy a Generator



**Tel: (816) 373-4768**

## Class Outline

### Introduction:

When you buy an emergency generator, you will encounter a highly sophisticated marketing program designed to make the most profit for the manufacturer. You can't avoid it. Therefore, in order to make the best choice, keep **your** needs in mind. Don't let brand names sway your decision.



**Buy an engine you recognize.**

Pay attention to building and fire codes. Most communities have adopted *International Building Code, International*

*Fire Code, and Life safety Code.* Find out what codes apply in your community. **You** are responsible to comply with the codes. The penalties and difficulties all come back to **you**, even if someone else makes the mistake.

**Buy something you can**

### **maintain and repair.**

- Select an engine you recognize, such as Ford, Chevy, Cummins, John Deere, etc.
- Get the software. If the controls are supported by software, make sure the software is available to you.
- Make sure you get a coolant heater.
- Make sure to get a float charger capable of 12.75—13VDC (25.5—26VDC for 24 volt systems)

### **Select an appropriate fuel.**

Consider fuel availability. From best to worst:

- Diesel
- LPG Liquid (availability problems)
- LPG Vapor (availability problems)
- Natural Gas (interruptible and low heat value)
- Gasoline (unstable—forms gum and hard to start)



Lemon tree, very pretty...

### **Watch Out for Deals**

Dealers and manufacturers often dump equipment on the market.

- ♦ We recommend that

- ♦ you always buy factory fresh. Don't take surplus.
- ♦ Engines go bad if not maintained while in storage. Control panels and generator ends become infested.
- ♦ Watch out for specialty units or over-runs.

**Buy a copy of NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems,** and make sure you insist your contractor follows it.

- Hire an engineer to oversee the project. Make sure he has errors and omissions insurance.
- Insist that your contractor provide you with a letter that stipulates compliance. NFPA 110, 5-13.3 (c), 1999 edition.
- Insist on your installation acceptance test as outlined in NFPA 110.

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