Risky Business

What You Need To Know About...

Emergency Standby Generators

Emergency standby generators are a critical component to any business continuity plan for blackouts or weather-related events.

U.S. businesses **lose $150 billion annually** due to blackouts and weather-related events.

In 2014, **14.2 million people** experienced power outages, which is a **12% increase** from the previous year.

Power outages result in an average loss of:

$15,000
for small retail

$150,000
for restaurant

$5,600 per minute
for a typical data center

Common Causes of Generator Failure

80% of standby generator starting failures are caused **by weak or dead batteries**

Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) **set to manual**

Cold weather impacts generator performance as batteries lose charge and cranking amps, and fuel gels and condensation freeze in lines

High temperature due to lack of coolant, restricted air flow or low oil

Improper installation

No fuel or contaminated fuel

How to Maintain a Standby Generator

Maintenance Checks
Service permanently installed units annually.

Battery
Check your battery and remove any corrosion and check the voltage of the battery. Batteries usually need replacing every 2-3 years.

Check the Generator's Intake and Exhaust for Debris
Cut back vegetation to provide air-flow to the unit.

Periodic Testing
Run the generator for at least 10 minutes every month to keep it in peak operating condition. Before storm season simulate a power outage to test the transfer switch.

Fuel Storage
Add fuel stabilizer to minimize effects of long-term storage.

Sources:
http://www.generac.com/generac-nation-newsletter2/current-articles/tips-to-maintain-your-automatic-home-backup-genera
http://www.bostoncomputing.net/consultation/databackup/statistics/