

# **Emergency Preparedness**

## **Your electric power supply and why you should be concerned.**

Planning for disruptions could play an important part in your overall profitability. Every hour that your business is without power could mean whether your business continues to be a financial success, keeps your customers happy and you remain competitive in the market place. Because power disruptions can come in many forms and they are not always predictable or preventable, taking these few precautions could save you a ton of headaches down the road.

The rental of contingency power is there for you to keep a business of any size functioning and on schedule for as long as necessary when utility power is either unavailable or inadequate. Most companies have emergency standby power generators that run the bare essentials of a business. They are set to come on in the event of a power outage and sustain just the bare minimum of requirements, but contingency power on the other hand can keep your entire plant or office building running at full capacity for the duration of the power outage. Maintaining your operations and continuing to serve customers most certainly can protect your overall profitability and provide you with a competitive advantage should power outages become severe or long lasting.

There are basically three vital steps in determining an effective course for handling such occurrences.

1. What exactly are your company's power needs in the event of a disruption?
2. What is the expertise you are going to need from your selected contingency power supplier?
3. How to evaluate who is going to be able to fulfill those needs based upon overall satisfaction of existing customers, staff size and training for all types of equipment.

## **Planning Ahead**

Only when power fails does your company truly appreciate the extent to which it depends on it. When the power is out your operations can be paralyzed, business comes to a grinding halt in most cases, your customers are kept waiting and their good will is effected. All of this can have a substantial effect on your bottom line going forward.

Outages, what are its known causes:

1. Weather
2. Human interference, i.e. construction mishap
3. Equipment malfunctions or age related failures
4. Acts of terrorism

If you are prepared for these types of occurrences, with a plan in place, potentially devastating consequences and crippling losses can be avoided.

## **In an Emergency, Timing is everything**

When power is disrupted, how prepared are you? Delayed response can be very costly. What are some of the reasons you might find yourself without adequate power for a substantial amount of time.

1. Lack of knowledge to how your current system responds in the event of a power failure.
2. Have no idea what your load requirements are or how to calculate them.
3. Where the rental equipment should be located in order to be the most cost effective and fix the problem.
4. Inadequate supplier info.
5. No established credit or history with these types of suppliers.
6. Unable to maintain these units with fuel and maintenance should the outage continue for sometime.
7. No knowledge on how to operate and check for suitable performance of the units once installed and running.

These are some of the issues you should try and resolve in advance should you want a smooth transition in the event of a major calamity or extensive power outage. Standby power is good but a company should also have a plan that calls for full contingency power should an event be like those mentioned above come in to play.

## **Your Power Needs**

A fast response is dependant on your complete knowledge of your facilities power requirements. These following steps are vital to your overall success.

What needs power?

What is the cost to your company by the hour if power is not restored to these vital areas within a very short period of time?

Does the whole facility need to continue to run?

What size of generator can handle these requirements and be the most cost effective?

What other equipment is necessary to have with this or these generators?

What are the steps to start the process of getting generators to your site in the event of an emergency?

## **Other Concerns**

Does the generator or generators need to conform to sound requirements based upon area of placement?

Is the generator portable?

Does the generator have the capability for multiple voltage requirements?

Can it be easily refueled?

Can cables be routed easily form generator to main panel?

Is your current distribution panel properly labeled and set up for full contingency power to be attached?

How is the exhaust handled from the generator and will it have an abnormal effect on the surrounding area?

Does the generator give smooth power to electronic equipment so as not to disrupt or cause sensitive computer equipment to malfunction?

Does the generator have easy read gauges and common sense fault lights than most personnel can understand?

A qualified rental power solution provider should be able to answer or provide you with their expertise to handle all of these issues.

## **Logistical Concerns**

How extensive is your selected providers inventory of generators?

How soon can they be delivered and from where?

What is their staffing for emergency service and routine maintenance schedules look like?

Fueling requirements, how is this issue going to be handled should the power outage become exacerbated

What if the generator goes down? How will this issue be handled?

What if the power outage is wide spread? What assurances do I need to know that my issues will be addressed and my equipment will be delivered as planned?

Is your selected service 24hr/7days a week?

## **Making the selection**

Now that you know what type of issues you might be confronted with, what should I look for in a total solutions package from my full contingency power provider?

### **1. Network**

What kind of alliances do they have with other companies and vendors should their inventory become stretched?

What kind of state of the art equipment do they have and how reliable is it?

### **2. Expertise in the Industry**

How long has your selected company been in business?

What type of training have they had and on what types of equipment?

What kinds of licenses are required for this type of broad knowledge and application?

What kinds of customers do they currently provide for these same types of service?

## **In conclusion**

Planning ahead is easy, having to handle an extensive power outage unprepared is not! By having the knowledge and the answers to all of the above concerns could be a life saver to your business in this current difficult business climate.

A full contingency rental power solution plan helps minimize the financial loss and downtime.

Having the network in place will make the planned outage or emergency go that much smoother. It will help your customers maintain their good will toward your company that you have worked so hard to accumulate over your business life. At the very least a full contingency plan will give you peace of mind and will enable a quick response in case an emergency should arise. Under the most difficult of circumstances it might mean the differences between your business' success and failure!

All high achievers plan their work and work their plan, for they are keenly aware that "luck" is most often being prepared to take advantage of a situation. Are you **PREPARED?**

## **Contingency Power Checklist**

### **Equipment:**

Critical Power Requirement (amperage/ voltage)

Load Priorities:

Size of Generators needed:

Lengths of cables and hookup types:

Fuel capacities needed and duration requirements:

Fuel consumption rates at full load:

Surrounding equipment needed to supply need: ( ramps, panels, transformers, connection types etc)

Maintenance schedules based upon power usage: