

Understanding the Risk

Transfer surges often occur during the switchover from utility power to generator power and vice versa. These surges are not just simple power fluctuations; they are potent enough to damage lighting systems and other electronics. Surprisingly, many homeowners and even some systems integrators overlook this risk, assuming that generator power means safe power. The reality is, however, that an ATS can generate switching transients similar to those of utility power, posing a significant threat to downstream equipment, including high-end lighting systems.

Priority #1: The Lighting Panel

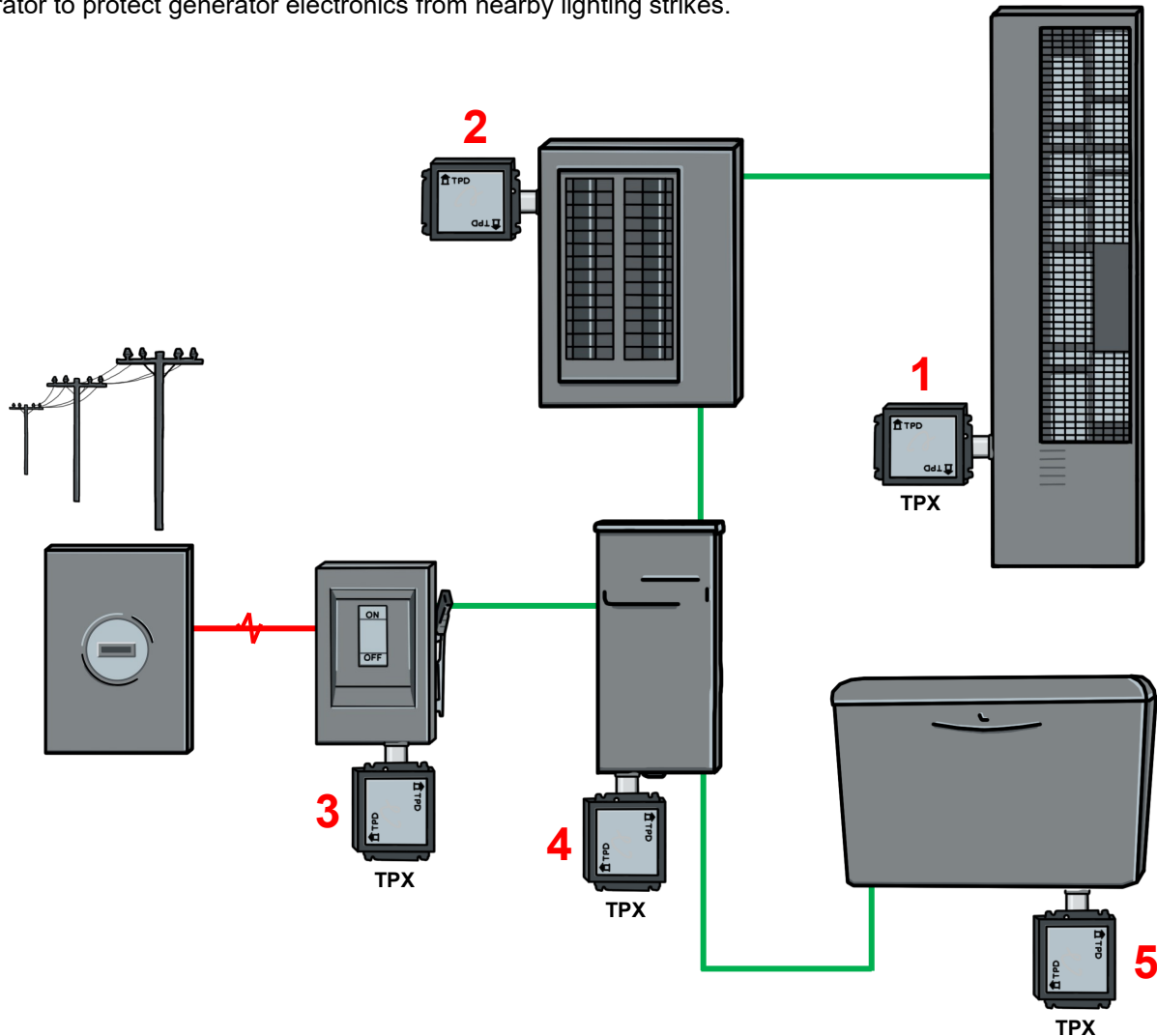
Installing surge protection directly at the lighting panel is a fundamental step. This protects the lighting system from surges originating within the home, ensuring the longevity and reliability of the installation.

Priority #2: Layering Protection

Given the potential for surges during power transitions, it's crucial to have a staged approach. Adding surge protection to the upstream breaker panel protects everything fed from that breaker panel and gives lighting systems a layered surge protection approach from the utility and the rest of the home.

Priority #3, 4 & 5: Protection from Utility and Transfer Switch Surges

Place surge protection upstream of the ATS to guard against surges originating from utility power or the transfer process. This will help protect the transfer switch electronics from the utility. Another unit can be placed on the generator feed to the transfer switch. When the generator is in operation, this unit will become the main line of defense from any bad power coming from the generator during start up and or after. Surge protection can also be placed at the generator to protect generator electronics from nearby lighting strikes.



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