



Checklist for Protecting Commercial Facilities from Power Surges

Businesses, manufacturers, research facilities and other businesses recognize the need to address power surge risks – and the benefits from doing so. The potential direct and indirect cost associated with power surge, loss of information or inability to operate as a result of a power surge or loss, and the ability to recover quickly in the event of an emergency create a need for advance preparation for, and management of, power surges.

The general approach to managing power surge risks is relatively straightforward. Specific applications must be customized to fit the unique needs of diverse operating environments and circumstances. Such applications are most appropriately designed and installed by experienced experts.

The following checklist of basic tools to minimize the impact of power surges is intended to be a starting point to help you take protective measures to protect all types of equipment:

Electrical System Design

Item	Y	N
Do all systems have a common “ground” and enter the building within a few feet of each other?		
Are communications and low voltage lines kept away from power cables within the facility and, when possible, crossed at right angles?		
Are telecommunication rooms wired in a manner that will minimize electrical disturbances and outfitted with electrical equipment, temperature controls and furnishings that will reduce the likelihood of disturbances?		

Surge Protection Installation

Item	Y	N
Is surge protection installed against external sources at the points where external power is supplied to the facility?		
Are surge protection devices added at electrical distributions panels within the facility if large motors, welders, etc., are used?		
Are individual pieces of sensitive equipment and communication lines afforded surge protection?		

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Maintenance

Item	Y	N
Are plans established for power interruptions that may occur from adverse weather conditions?		
Is exterior and internal motion or timed lighting installed to diffuse potential animal activity at power lines and poles?		
Are trees and dead vegetation located around the building, power lines and poles trimmed?		

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