

ARTICLE 700

EMERGENCY SYSTEMS

Introduction to Article 700—Emergency Systems

Emergency systems are often required as a condition of an operating permit for a given facility. According to NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, emergency power systems are generally installed where artificial illumination is required for safe exiting and for panic control in buildings subject to occupancy by large numbers of people such as high-rise buildings, jails, sports arenas, schools, health care facilities, and similar structures.

The authority having jurisdiction makes the determination as to whether such a system is necessary for a given facility and what it must entail. Sometimes an emergency system simply provides power for exit lighting and exit signs upon loss of the main power or in the case of fire. Its purpose is not to provide power for normal business operations, but rather to provide lighting and controls essential for human life safety.

The general goal is to keep the emergency operation as reliable as possible. The emergency system must be able to supply all emergency loads simultaneously. When the emergency supply also supplies power for other nonemergency loads, the emergency loads take priority over the others, and those other loads must be subject to automatic load pickup and load shedding to support the emergency loads if the emergency system does not have adequate capacity and rating for all loads simultaneously.

As you study Article 700, keep in mind that emergency systems are essentially lifelines for people. The entire article is based on keeping those lifelines from breaking.

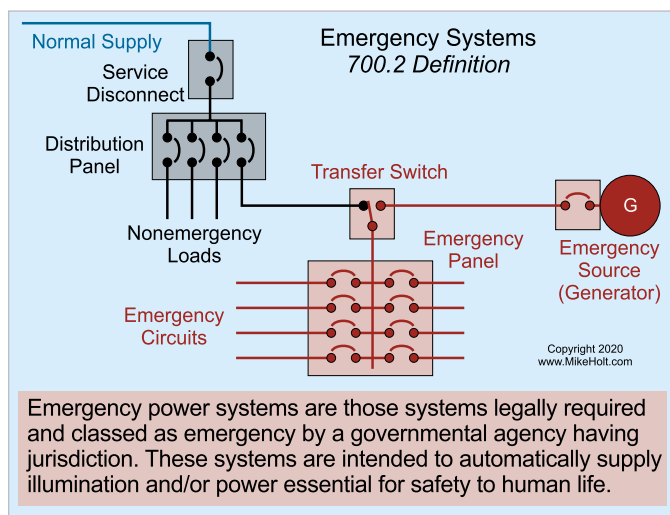
Part I. General

700.2 Definitions

This definition applies within this article and throughout the *Code*.

Emergency Systems. Emergency power systems are those systems legally required and classed as emergency by a governmental agency having jurisdiction. These systems are intended to automatically supply illumination and/or power essential for safety to human life. ▶Figure 700-2

Note: Emergency power systems may also provide power to maintain life, fire detection and alarm systems, elevators, fire pumps, public safety communications systems (twisted pair, antennas, and coaxial cable), industrial processes where current interruption would produce serious life safety or health hazards, and similar functions.



▶Figure 700-2