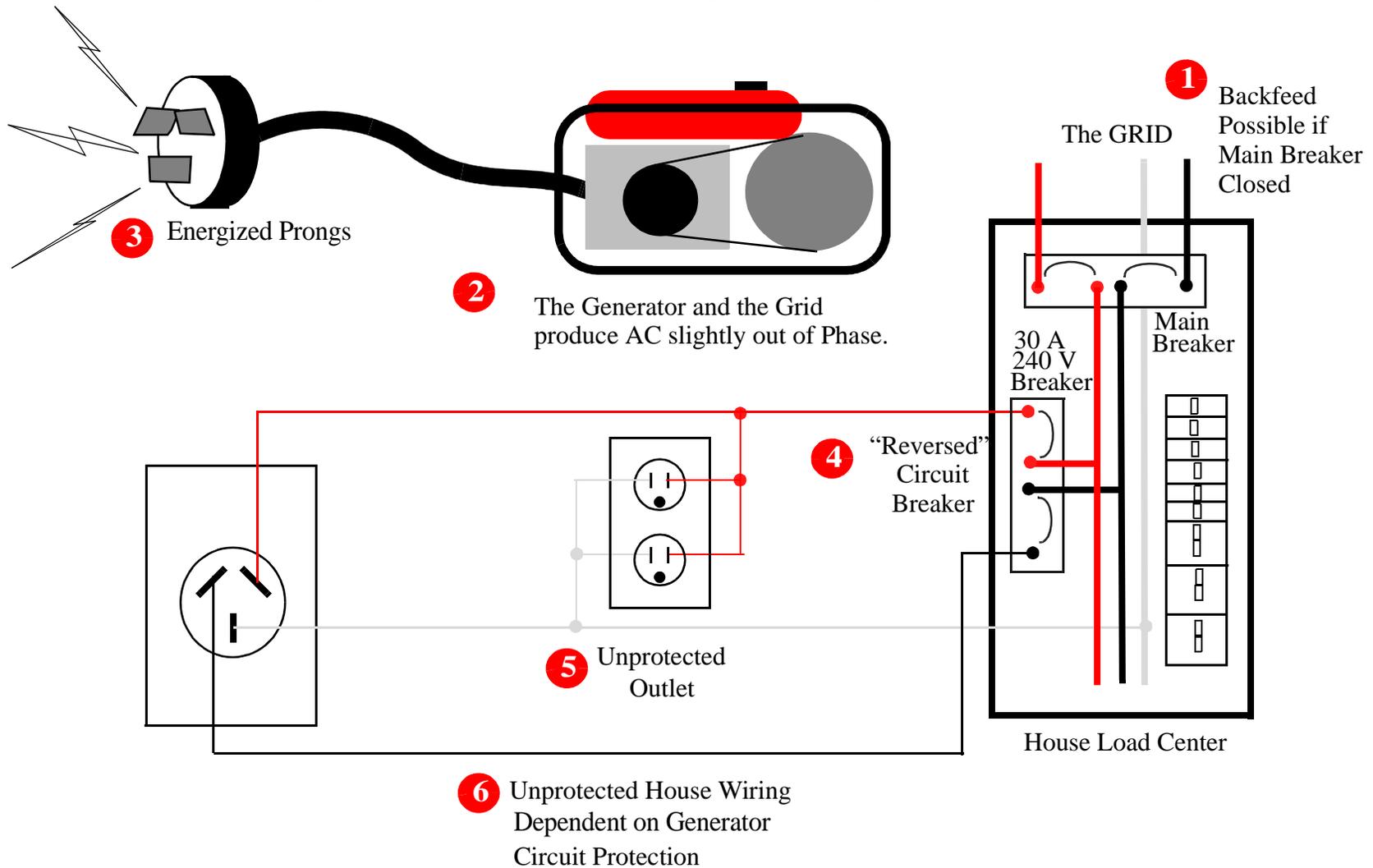


Six Dangers of Backfeeding Through The Dryer Outlet



The Dangers

1. Utility workers who think the line is safe could be electrocuted if the generator back feeds the grid. Neighbors houses could be backfed due to “islanding”. Let’s see, is that manslaughter or negligent homicide? Hmmm, better call the lawyer.
2. If the generator and the grid are on-line at the same times they will likely be out of phase. When it comes to a contest between a 30 amp generator and a gazillion amp public utility, exactly whose equipment is most likely to go up in flames? If an “islanding” condition exists, multiple generators can battle each other with equally disastrous consequences.
3. Should someone forget that the generator is powering the house through the dryer outlet and, in a moment of madness, remove the plug, there will be 240 volts at 30 amps waiting on those energized prongs to “reach out and touch somebody”, like small children or beloved pets. There really is a reason for the time honored convention where plugs supply devices and sockets supply power.
4. Are there any circuit breaker manufacturers out there who will guarantee their product will work as expected in a backward fed condition? (We’ll get back with you when the manufacturers finish checking with their legal departments.)
5. If there are any other outlets on the dryer’s circuit, those outlets will have 30 amp protection provided by the generator but likely only 15 or 20 amp wiring. “Honey ... what’s that smell?!?”
6. Anyone care to place a bet that the circuit protection on that \$400.00 generator is better than that afforded by the house circuit breakers? Step right up and try your luck!

“But I am smart enough to avoid these dangers”

1. Yes but what if you are incapacitated?
2. Yes, but what if you leave and others fool with your setup?
3. Yes, but what if the power fails when you are away and family members leave out steps in the setup?
4. Yes, but what if the power failure is part of a larger “high stress event”?
5. Yes, but what if the steps are not done in the right order?

“Smart Things” for those insisting they are “smart enough”

1. Create and use a checklist.
2. Train family members to perform the setup ***and use the checklist.***
3. Place magnetic or adhesive signs and placards to indicate when backfeeding is in progress.
4. Turn off the main. **Turn off the main. *Turn off the main!***