

# If it was not a Surge, then what was it?

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If you or your neighbor had been the "only one who got hit" on the row, and the "hit" did not occur when you first plugged in, it was probably caused by something I refer to as an **IED** (Inadvertent Electrical Disruption).

The damage to electrical equipment/systems from an IED "hit" is usually the consequence of someone (let's pray it wasn't you) unintentionally interfering with the shore power system. A few examples are provided here, and there are, indeed, more possibilities:

1. Accidentally crushing or separating power supply connections. Please do not drive over anyone's Power Cord or any power supply wires lying on the ground. While an RV Power Cord's internal wiring can be crushed together or broken, a rally field generator's output power cables have "snap-together" connections that can be easily separated. (Remember: What happens to a 50 Amp RV if the Neutral Wire/Cable is not connected [a.k.a. open], or the two Hot Lines are fused together.)

2. Starting an onboard generator when an RV's Power Cord has not been physically removed from the shore power system first. NEVER start a generator without completely disconnecting your Power Cord from the Post (do not just trip the breaker). Do not unquestioningly expect an automatic transfer switch (ATS) always to protect your RV from two electrical power sources simultaneously. (**Comment:** Think in terms of Accidental 240V! A frequent cause – RV owners "exercising" their generators while still plugged into shore power!)

3. Plugging into the Post with flawed power Adapters or damaged Power Cord Plug Heads.

(**Advice:** If your Adapter, Power Cord, or Plug Head is faulty in any way [e.g., tine(s) charred, rubber/plastic around any tine is melted, the cable's rubber casing is separated from the Plug Head, or the exterior sheathing cut/severed] – do not ignore it or apply a "band-aid" fix! Instead, REPLACE the dangerous piece as soon as you can. It's not worth the potential damage it can cause if you continue to use it!!)

(**Comment:** One of my Dad's constant warnings to my brother and me when we were teenagers certainly seems to be applicable here: "HEY! Pay attention to what you're doing!" Any type of IED is, unfortunately, a frequent cause of costly damage to RVs. And I'm referring to the potential damage of wiping out all of your 120 VAC equipment/appliances/devices, too.)

Here's a motto coined by my wife when we were vendors on the RV Rally Circuit as Mobile RV Medic, Inc. I recommend you pay particular attention to it.

***"When it comes to RVs and damaging outside electricity, ignorance isn't bliss, my friends – it's expensive!"***