



CENTRAL FILE COPY

TECHNICAL NOTE

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Bureau of Land Management U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CHECKING DELCOTRON GENERATOR OUTPUT

The practice of disconnecting the battery cable with the engine running and observing the spark to evaluate the generator output has been reported. This practice specifically IS NOT RECOMMENDED for the following reasons.

1. First and most important, a spark at the battery post may ignite hydrogen gas normally formed in the battery and cause an explosion.
2. A spark is inconclusive, since the spark may be caused by a battery discharge current. This condition would occur with the generator supplying no output current at all.
3. If the generator is charging, the sudden decrease in current when the circuit is opened causes a high induced voltage in the stator windings. This high voltage may damage the voltage regulator, generator diodes, or vehicle electrical accessories.

Since the above practice is inconclusive and may cause extensive damage, it IS NOT RECOMMENDED AS A SERVICE PROCEDURE.

ALWAYS stop the engine, turn off all accessories, and blow away gases before disconnecting the battery cables FOR ANY REASON.