Incident Report
Control Type: Otis Elevonic 401
Machine Type: Otis 139 HT Gearless 2:1
Speed: 700 fpm
Rise: High Rise from B2 to 39 w/express zone
Hoistway Configuration: Bank of 3; 6 car group
Conditions: Far right car affected, center car removed from service for modernization

Description of Incident

- Service mechanic was performing a generator swap due to excessive generator commutator wear and the elevator being found several times in the overhead. The “new” generator was from the adjacent elevator undergoing modernization.
- The elevator was at level B2 on automatic operation, removed from group service, with doors inhibited when work commenced. The power was off.
- Once the swap was complete, the mechanic turned the power on and the elevator began to search for position.
- The elevator traveled up from B2 and faulted several times until it reached the 4th floor, still searching for position.
- While still searching for position, the elevator took off uncontrollably in the up direction reaching excessive speed until it crashed into the overhead.
Recommendations and Lessons Learned

• Notify supervisor when changing generator for prior elevator history
• Always use JHA checklist and write a detailed JHA
• If possible, position car at center of hoistway with a balanced load prior to commencing work
• Place car on inspection mode capable of running from controller on inspection speed
• Maintain line of sight from controller to machine
• Place directional demand on inspection speed and verify proper direction under control
• Have a second person standing by the disconnect to remove power in an emergency