



**Ken
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Owner of Slate
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Services

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Protect Your Investment

There are only one or two companies I can think of that incorporate surge protection into their equipment. There is a cost to include that and it has to show up on the bottom line. Who would know if it wasn't there? Nobody, but for companies who make a commitment to their customers to provide the best possible product, it becomes

obvious they are doing that. 50 years ago electronics were in their infancy and appliances were overbuilt. They weren't overly expensive either back then and I believe the power coming into our homes was cleaner. Today there is a lot of interference entering our homes with the electricity and I have seen some wide variations in the voltage at customers' homes. The circuitry in new boilers and air conditioners sometimes has problems with those variations.

Some air conditioners will just shut down to protect the compressor and require a reset to start back up. All of the sensitive circuits are susceptible to damage from spikes and surges. I have started to install an add-on surge protector on every new system. One manufacturer I talked to suggested it after discussing problems we were having with one of their air conditioners. They are not obligated to include those parts but will suggest doing it at the customers' expense. There is more than one kind of surge protector and that is reflected in the cost. The less expensive model is always monitoring the voltage and will send any spikes to ground just like a lightning arrester does. It can be damaged by doing that but the whole purpose is to protect the equipment connected to it. The surge protector can be replaced easily if it is damaged. The other type of circuit protector will instantly disconnect the equipment from the line if one of the monitored parameters is out of range. Voltage too high or low are the main things it senses. It leaves the equipment disconnected for 3 or 5 minutes and if the condition no longer exists it reconnects the circuit and life goes on. The more complex the circuit boards get in new equipment the more important it will be to have clean power. Personally, I feel like power will get worse in the future. The grid is overloaded and aging and in addition there are many dead trees in our area that can easily fall across the lines. Not to mention the condition of many poles holding the wires. Something can happen miles from your home and cause a surge or spike that damages your equipment.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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Juneteenth National Freedom Day

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - Wednesday, June 19, is Juneteenth National Freedom Day. Considered the longest-running African American holiday, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when union soldiers reached Galveston, Texas – the furthest point in the south – with news of the end of the Civil War, which had occurred two months earlier with the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee in Virginia.

The troops' arrival also came two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves and ending slavery in the United States. Learn more about the history of Juneteenth here.

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