WEST WETASKIWIN
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Traffic Rules for School Bus Safety

Back to school time will soon be upon us and that means school buses will be back on track delivering our children and grandchildren to and from education facilities.

Research from the Palliser Regional School's Bus Safety Program reports patterns have emerged showing an increase in 'fly-bys' in September as school resumes. So please remember in September, and the other 11 months of the year, to follow the rules and keep our children safe!

- If you pass a school bus that has its alternating amber lamps flashing, pass with caution and keep an eye out for children and adults who may be waiting for the red lamps to begin flashing.
- When the school bus stops to let students on or off, its alternating red lamps will begin flashing and a stop sign will extend from the left side of the school bus. **For both directions, you must come to a full stop about 20 meters** (about four to five car lengths) away from the school bus.
- On a highway divided by a median, when approaching a school bus from the rear follow the same procedures as you would for a highway that is not divided. When approaching from the front with amber or red lights flashing you may proceed with caution.
- Remain stopped until the alternating flashing red lamps are turned off and the stop sign on the driver's side is no longer extended. When proceeding, watch for children who might be playing near the drop off point.

In Alberta, failure to stop for red flashing lights will result in a $503.00 fine and 6 demerit points. Failure to remain stopped until the red flashing lights are turned off and the stop sign is no longer extended will result in a fine of $465.00 and 3 demerit points.

For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www. westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

All Surge Protectors Are Not Created Equal!

Surge protectors are designed to protect electronic equipment from power surges (which last three nanoseconds or more) and power spikes (lasting only one or two nanoseconds). If a surge or spike is high enough, it can damage sensitive electronics such as computers, TVs, microwaves, etc.

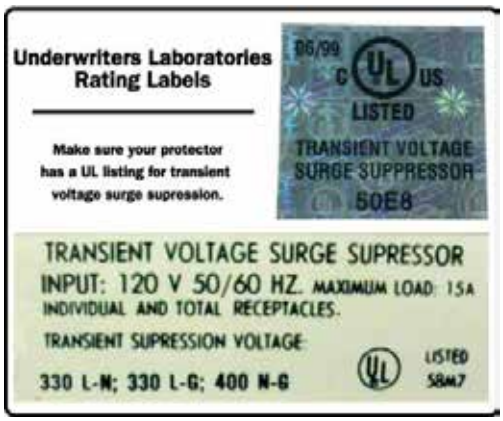
The role of the surge protector is to divert the additional voltage caused by a surge away from the sensitive electronic equipment to the surge protector's ground. It is important to note that surge protectors can, and do, burn out – so choosing surge protectors with indicator lights will tell you whether the device is functioning properly.

Picking out the right protector is a matter of balancing the cost of the system against the cost of losing data or the actual electronic equipment, so it is important to find the level of coverage that you are comfortable with.

To protect your equipment, you will need individual surge protectors for each outlet and they come in various levels; the basic power strip, the better power strip and the surge station, which are large protectors that would fit under your computer.

Surge protectors come with different ratings that you need to consider.

- **Clamping Voltage** – There are three levels of protection in the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) rating – 330V, 400V and 500V. A lower clamping voltage indicates better protection.
- **Energy Absorption/Dissipation** – This rating, given in joules, tells you how much energy the surge protector can absorb before it fails. The higher number indicates greater protection. Choose at least a rating of 200-400 joules, keeping in mind that 600 joules or more will give better protection.
- **Response Time** – There is always a slight delay as surge protectors kick in, thereby leaving your electronic device vulnerable. Look for a protector that responds in less than a nanosecond.



To find out what a surge protector unit is capable of, you need to check out the Underwriters Laboratories rating (see UL tag sample left). UL is an independent company that tests electronic products for safety.

Minimally ensure that the surge protector is listed as a **transient voltage surge suppressor**. This identifier means that it meets the criteria for **UL 1449** and is not simply a power bar.

Regulated Rate Option

The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For July, 2018 RRO is priced at $0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For August, 2018 the RRO is priced at $0.06800 per kWh.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

Information on West Wetaskiwin's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com