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This one word gets knocked around the old campground/RV park quite a bit. So maybe it's time to explain what it is and what it is not.

An actual surge is an unusual case of Extremely High Voltage (hundreds of Volts) raging through the electrical grid like a supersonic jet – it is fast and furious. As quickly as it hits, "BOOM," it's gone. It could be caused by lightning or by failed power company equipment. Whichever the cause, it is very damaging to an RV!

However, contrary to popular belief, a surge is not the big bugaboo everyone thinks it is. It is, in fact, the least common problem for RVs! Yes, it could be very damaging if it occurs, but it only happens 1% or 5% of the time.

1% – if the electric company cannot contain a surge generated from within their system.

5% – if it came from good 'ole Mother Nature – yep, lightning strikes.

One thing is for sure: if an actual electrical surge finds your campground's/park's underground grid, it will affect **EVERY RV** plugged in on the same grid or electrical path!! However, if you, or maybe a neighbor, were the only one who got "hit" in your occupied park...it certainly was not a surge. Stop a second and think about a hurricane surge – it hits everyone and everything in its path, not just one or two here and there, like a tornado. Well, an electrical surge hits everyone, too!!

There are seven or eight inexpensive models of "Surge (ONLY) Protectors" on the market. These units have just one truly protective feature – they provide "Surge Suppression" – often in a limited amount. True, they may have some Wiring Fault diagnostic capability and identify any discovered Faults via small lights or LEDs. However, this diagnostic capability is NOT automatic protection. You must interpret what the lights are "telling" you and take appropriate action yourself – you must physically unplug from the Post. **Note:** None of the "surge-only" units can detect any Voltage problems, nor can most of them "tell" you if the surge module is dead! If you are going to buy any "surge protector," please make sure the unit you are considering can let you know if the internal surge suppression module has failed and is no longer effective. WHY? Because all RV surge suppression systems sacrifice their "lives" to protect you and your equipment/appliances/and devices. It might be a quick death from a lightning strike or a slow death from repeated High (Transient) Voltage spikes coming from the power company. So, how do you know if that "surge thing" between your RV and the Post is doing you any good?