



**STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION**

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**STATE FIRE MARSHAL SURGE PROTECTOR POLICY – (NON-HEALTH CARE FACILITIES)**

The following directive on surge protector use applies to the following occupancies inspected by the Iowa State Fire Marshal Division: schools/colleges, prisons/jails, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities/group homes, childcare centers, adult daycare centers, and other buildings where the public congregates.

Electrical surge protectors may be used for computers and related equipment, facsimile machines, photocopiers, electronic scanning machines, and other consumer electronic devices such as DVD players, televisions, cell phone chargers, alarm clocks, and stereo equipment provided the electrical surge protector is a UL listed product.

Examples of devices that are prohibited from use with a surge protector are lamps, fans, large battery chargers, motor driven appliances such as air-conditioners, refrigerators, pop-machines, compressors and microwave ovens. The key idea to remember is the device that is being plugged into the surge protector is voltage sensitive and can be permanently damaged by either lightning or an electrical surge.

The following are the minimum standards for an electrical surge protector:

1. Voltage surge protection.
2. Lighted on/off switch.
3. 15-amp circuit breaker protection.
4. Minimum 14 gauge power cord with ground.

If you have questions, please contact Special Agent in Charge Kyle R. Gorsh with the Iowa Department of Public Safety - State Fire Marshal Division.