



Ken Field

Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Not Too Long Ago

Nobody likes having to call for repair service, especially not on a night or weekend or holiday. But because I take care of a lot of customers, it seems like it happens pretty often. Some calls are totally unpredictable and therefore unavoidable. The ones that get under my skin are the ones that come from total lack of regular maintenance or on equipment that is so far beyond its life expectancy that frequent breakdowns are inevitable. The call still comes in as an emergency and the homeowners act like these problems just came out of the blue but we both know if I have been responsible for the equipment that they have been notified of the impending doom for a few years. The refrigerant (Freon) that we used for 30 or more years is being phased out and due to that fact the price is going sky high. When an older system has a leak and needs refrigerant, we need to use that refrigerant but we can't keep putting more in every few months. We can add once or twice but then we either need to find the leak and repair it or replace the system with one using the modern refrigerant. It's not our rules, those are the rules set by the EPA.

Some of the excuses I hear are really great though. Most people don't realize that I can look up their system and find out the year it was made. That usually makes the "you just put it in not too long ago" excuse a real hoot. Eight or 10 years is pretty long ago if you are an air conditioner. Especially if you've been neglected since then. When I hear "we seem to have a lot of trouble with this system", I look up the repair history and usually find that we have never been there for regular maintenance and when we do get called for an emergency it's related to a clogged air filter and dirt covered outdoor unit. These are the same people who call in an emergency for no heat in the winter and say "the oil tank can't be empty, we just got oil not too long ago". RED FLAG warning. It's empty. I don't want to go out for service and find an empty tank because you could have used the money you now owe me to get some oil. Denial never makes a situation better. 'Not too long' ago dinosaurs roamed the earth depending on what time scale you use. To me 'not too long ago' means I had lunch not too long ago and now it's time for dinner.

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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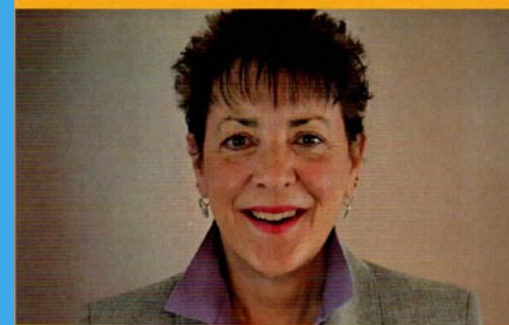
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- ★ Born and raised in the Slate Belt
- ★ Master's Degree in Public Health
- ★ Founder and Owner – PAR Medical Consultant and ATR Notary Services
- ★ 37 Years of Experience in Strategic Planning, Budgeting, and Marketing
- ★ Helped establish the Medic 9 Paramedic Unit
- ★ EMS volunteer since 1979
- ★ President – Roseto Ladies Chapter of UNICO (Italian-American organization that engages in charitable works, supports higher education and performs patriotic deeds)

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