cable pressure AirMAIL
System Studies Incorporated

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Leak Locating at the Panel

There's a very useful and important tool available from PressureWEB™ that can help you leak locate at a Distribution Panel. For those of you who have access to PressureWEB, you may have discovered that you also have access to our handy online ***Cable Pressurization Theory & Practice*** book. The ***Tools*** section of PressureWEB's main navigation menu provides a direct link to this valuable cable pressurization reference information.

Once you have this resource open in your browser, click on the ***Maintenance and Repair*** section in the left Contents menu. Scroll down and click on ***Proactive Maintenance: CO Cables***. This link generates a page that contains an 8-step leak locating procedure. It provides all the information you'll need to systematically leak locate in and around the central office.

By the way, while you're looking through the online reference utility, you may also wish to click the ***Tools*** link in the Contents menu and access our Worksheet information. Worksheets A and C are particularly useful for leak locating at a Distribution Panel.

All About Distribution Panels

Despite your experience, or inexperience, working with B-Meter / Distribution Panels, we believe that the information in this bulletin could be very useful to you—either as valuable review material or as a source of helpful new tips and suggestions.

That's why we dedicated the bulk of this AirMAIL issue to Distribution Panels. We encourage you to give us your feedback about the information presented, or suggest possible topics for another bulletin. Please contact us at (800) 247-8255 or via email to ***bill@airtalk.com***.

Solving the Case of the Bouncing Balls

Are those bouncing balls on your B-Meter or Distribution Panel driving you nuts? If so, we may have a quick and simple solution that will help restore your sanity. More often than not, the cause for all the bouncing balls can be attributed to just one flow rater, one cable. What may be happening is that the protective paper underneath the cable sheath is preventing the unimpeded flow of air into the cable.

Here's how you can identify the cable and correct the situation:

1. At the Distribution Panel briefly turn off each flow rater one at a time and observe what happens to the other flow rater balls. If the other balls don't settle down, turn the flow rater back on and proceed to the next one. When you get the balls to stop bouncing, you've located the problematic cable.

2. Make sure before doing anything else that all flow raters are turned back on.

3. Now that you know what cable is causing the balls to go whacko, make a trip to vault and find out where this cable is being fed.

4. Remove the air feed to the designated cable, unscrew the tank valve on the cable sleeve and, using an "orange stick" or similar tool, quickly and carefully open up the paper that surrounds the conductors. Make sure you have an adequate entry point for the air flow, but be careful not to damage the conductors and/or insulation.

5. Once you have successfully cleared out the opening, screw the tank valve back in, reconnect the air feed from the panel, and return to the Distribution Panel to see if things have improved. Hopefully, you'll notice that the bouncing balls have settled down and become stable and readable.

If you're unable to correct those crazy bouncing balls using the tips described above, please give us a call. We'll be happy to work with you to correct the situation.

Too Many Distribution Panel Alarms?

If you get a lot of alarms at your Distribution Panel(s), make sure that the panel output is regulated to 10 pounds per square inch (psi) and that air feed on the uphill side of the panel (from the air dryers) is set to 15 psi. This pressure differential ensures that adequate, regulated delivery pressure can be achieved. It also helps to eliminate nuisance-type alarms? the kind that read high flow one time, then zero flow, then high flow, etc. These alarms are generated by some monitoring systems when alternating air dryers cause fluctuations in air source delivery pressure to the panels.

Remember, achieving a consistent 10 psi to each Distribution Panel cable is just as important for overall cable pressure protection as tracking air flow is to leak locating. So, keep 15 psi coming in and 10 psi going out.

Quick Links...

As the name implies, here are some direct links to the more frequently visited pages on our AirTalk website. We hope you get a chance to visit often.

AirTalk.com
Hardware
Software
Training

Also, if you would like to get in touch with the System Studies Field Engineer in your area, but don't know who to contact, check out our ***Field/Sales Support*** page.

Phone Access...

We realize that the automated routing function of our phone system can sometimes be frustrating. If you'd like to bypass the system, please use the direct access numbers below:

Sales:
(831) 477-8942, (831) 477-8941

Tech Support:
(831) 477-8945

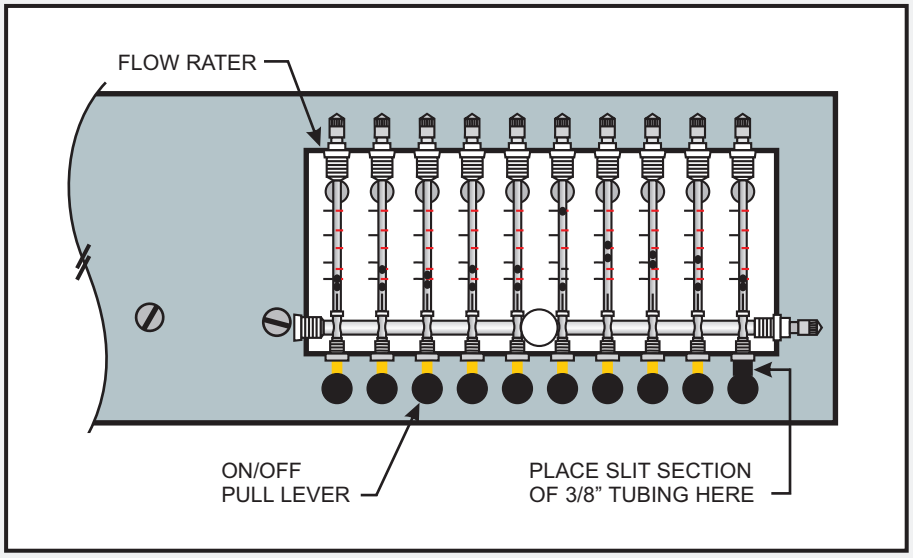
Training:
(831) 477-8935

Leak Locating:
(831) 477-8902

High Traffic CO?

Here's a handy tip that can help to prevent the on/off pull levers on your Distribution Panel's flow raters from being accidently bumped closed in high traffic central offices. Find a length of 3/8" tubing and cut it open by placing a slit down the length. With the panel's on/off levers in the down (open) position, measure the distance between the top of the black plastic ball and the bottom of the flow rater. Cut as many sections as you need and slip them over the levers (see illustration).

Next time it won't be as easy to accidently bump those levers closed.



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