



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

The Worst I've Ever Seen! **When Good Wire Goes Really Bad**

[November 2010] Here is another in our series of pictures that will make you groan, laugh, or spit up your coffee. Of course, your facility looks nothing like this, does it?

Time and again, no matter how carefully a studio or transmitter site is planned, almost immediately after it is built the modifications and additions start piling up. It usually starts small – just one more wire.

JUST ONE MORE WIRE

Often the changes come from the need to have some new source available in the control room – and it has to be installed “right now!” There is no doubt the engineer intends to go back and document the added wires, running them neatly, cleaning them up, and using ty-wraps, etc. to keep everything together.

But, even in small market stations, as the various demands on time flow, what can you say? The cleanup keeps getting put off. More wires get added. And you know exactly what eventually happens.



This picture comes to us from a small town radio station. As is often the case, the wiring minefield in the picture was discovered by a new engineer, who suddenly saw all his free time for the next several months pass before his eyes. One can image that, for more than a few moments, he seriously considered the wisdom of taking the job in the first place.

The word is that this pile of wires will not be visible for much longer – and not because the engineer tossed a rug over it. It is because the engineer knows that eventually, with a pack of wires left like this one will eventually decide to come loose and take the station off the air. Hence it is his plan to attack the problem sooner rather than later.

Do you have a picture of some part of a station that just takes your breath away? Please share them with us. It is not necessary to identify the facility – our goal is not to embarrass, but help others see some of these examples of how not to be seen. Send your pictures (or ideas) to BDR-Editor@theBDR.net Thanks in advance!

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