



The

# **Broadcasters' Desktop Resource**

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

## **On the Maintenance Shift**

### **Replacing Transmitter Filters That Could Spell Danger**

*By Randy Wells*

*[April 2010] Keeping clean filters on the air intake of transmitters is important. However, some of the reusable filters may present a danger, even when clean. Randy Wells explains:*

I try to keep my transmitters clean and free from dust and dirt. As part of that, regular cleaning of the air filters is necessary. However, a recent inspection of the air filters on two of "my" BE AM-1A transmitters revealed that, besides being mildly dirty, most of the metallic media inside the filter frame was disintegrating and disappearing.

#### **MORE THAN DIRT GETTING IN**

Not only were the filters not filtering, but metallic shrapnel was being inhaled into the rig. This is not good – and not much fun if it hits the circuit boards!



**As you can see, the metal filter has deteriorated and internal pieces are breaking off.**

## TIME TO FOR A TOTAL FILTER CHANGE

A trip to the local ACE Hardware store yielded a 20 x 30 x 1 slab of a blue filter media called "NaturalAire" - made by Flanders PrecisionAire.



**A new and better filter is as close  
as the nearest hardware store!**

As you can see, the filter even has a woven grid on one side to hold the filter together – and prevent any filter debris from coming through, into the transmitter. I suspect this filter will be more effective than the OEM units.

For ten bucks, you can make a *lot* of 7-½ x 7-½ inch filters (the size I needed), and avoid blowing-up your transmitter. The NaturalAire also can be washed clean with water, if you have it available.

This might be a good time to check the condition of your transmitter filters.

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