



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

www.theBDR.net

... 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.

- - -

Randy Wells cares for nine radio stations up in the wine country of Northern California. You can contact him at RadioRan@aol.com

Return to The BDR Menu

