

Universal Fire Panel Repair Manual

(abbreviated version) - Author Unknown

Step 1 - Approach the ailing panel in a confident manner. This will give the panel the mistaken idea that you know something. This will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the panel should suddenly start working, you'll be credited with its repair. If this fails to work, proceed to step two.

Step 2 - Wave the installation manual at the panel. This will make it assume that you are at least familiar with the manufacturer's trouble-shooting guide. Opening the manual and pretending to read it's contents while "hemming and hawing" under your breath will further increase the panel's anxiety and may cause it to suddenly start working (Hint: If you're going to try this part of "Step 2" it helps to ensure you have the manual right-side up when you're "reading"). Should this fail to work, proceed to step three.

Step 3 - In a commanding but quiet tone of voice, recite Ohm's Law to the panel (Caution! Before taking this drastic step, refer to a reliable book to be sure of your knowledge of Ohm's Law). This will prove to the panel beyond a shadow of a doubt, that you really do know something.

Step 4 - Remove your largest Phillips type screwdriver from your tool belt and brandish it at the panel in a menacing manner. This will often frighten the panel into thinking you're quite familiar with the deadly "short circuit" repair technique. Gently tap the butt end of the screwdriver on some relay housings. If the owner is watching his confidence in your professionalism will increase ten-fold because most people don't even know what a relay looks like. Make sure that you do, however, and don't start tapping on the power transformer by mistake.

Step 5 - Manually bypass a zone or device... even if that circuit isn't causing the problem. This will prove that you are familiar with the panels design and have knowledge of how it's circuits function. This will confuse the panel and thereby increase your advantage. If this doesn't work, proceed to the most drastic and dangerous step. It is seldom needed and should be considered the step of last resort if all else fails.

Step 6 - Jarring the components. This may require anything from a three to a six foot drop. However, you must be careful with this step because, while jarring is an approved method of repair, you must not mar the floor. (It is also most important that the owner of the panel must not be allowed to watch this technique being applied). If the sudden "jar" loosens components soldered to the board or fractures it, you can safely tell the owner that a new control is required due to age and brittle components.