BASIC ELECTRICAL THEORY & TROUBLESHOOTING



SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. **ELECTRICITY CAN KILL YOU!**

 VOLTAGE ALWAYS FOLLOWS THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE • IT TAKES LESS THAN 1 AMP **OF CURRENT TO STOP YOUR HEART**

ALWAYS TURN OFF **POWER WHEN WORKING INSIDE A CONTROL** PANEL, OR ON ANY **OTHER ELECTRICAL** DEVICE

 TURN OFF THE SERVICE BREAKER **FEEDING THE CONTROL PANEL OR ELECTRICAL DEVICE, USUALLY LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CONTROL PANEL.** TURNING OFF THE BREAKERS IN THE **CONTROL PANEL ONLY KILLS POWER TO THE COMPONENTS DOWN STREAM OF THE BREAKER – THERE IS STILL POWER TO THE TOP OF THE BREAKERS AND ANYTHING BEFORE IT IN THE CIRCUIT.**

OKAY – LET'S GET STARTED!!!

WE CAN THINK OF ELECTRICITY IN TERMS OF WATER BEING PUMPED THROUGH A SERIES OF PIPES

- VOLTAGE IS THE PRESSURE BEING PRODUCED
 BY THE PUMP, THINK OF THIS AS H.P.
- CURRENT (AMPS) IS THE FLOW RATE, HOW
 FAST THE WATER FLOWS THROUGH THE PIPES.
 THINK OF THIS AS GAL/MIN
- OHMS IS THE RESISTANCE THAT ACTS ON THE WATER. THE MORE RESTRICTIONS THE HIGHER THE RESISTANCE.

COMMON ELECTRICAL TERMS

✤ VOLTAGE (VOLTS)

CURRENT (AMPS)

✤ RESISTANCE (OHMS)

✤ POWER (WATTS)

DIGITAL VOLT METER – AN INSTALLERS/ELECTRICIAN'S BEST FRIEND!



SCHEMATICS 101

IT'S NOT AS TOUGH AS YOU THINK

READING A SCHEMATIC

- READING A SCHEMATIC IS LIKE READING A ROAD MAP
- FIND YOUR STARTING POINT AND DESTINATION, THEN FOLLOW THE MAP.
- USE YOUR METER TO CHECK CIRCUITS ON THE WAY
- IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS IF YOU GET LOST

Schematic Symbols





TROUBLESHOOTING 101

EVEN EASIER THAN READING A SCHEMATIC

Troubleshooting Basics

A pumping station has 4 basic elements:

1. Electrical Service

- must match motor rated voltage
- measure with meters

2. Control panel

Control circuit

- check for voltage at terminals
- check for blown fuses
- run pumps manually with HOA switch
- simulate float sequence

Pump circuit

- check voltage
- tripped circuit breakers
- check contactor or overload unit

3. Floats

disconnect at least one lead and check with ohmmeter

4. Motor

disconnect leads and check with ohmmeter

TROUBLESHOOTING A FLOAT

- CHECKING RESISTANCE (OHMS) DOESN'T ALWAYS TELL THE TALE.
- TO GET THE WHOLE STORY YOU MUST CHECK VOLTAGE ACROSS THE FLOAT, THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN IT COMES TO MECHANICAL FLOATS.
- IN A CONTROL PANEL THE PUMP ON/OFF FLOATS ARE POWERED BY THE CONTROL CIRCUIT.
- WHEN CHECKING VOLTAGE YOU MUST BE SURE OF WHAT YOUR CONTROL VOLTAGE SHOULD BE, I.E. 12VDC, 24VDC, 120VAC (THIS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CONTROL PANEL RATINGS LABEL).

Pump Switches



Pump Switches



QUESTIONS?

CONTROL/ALARM CIRCUITS 101

• THE CONTROL/ALARM CIRCUIT SENDS POWER TO THE FLOATS.

THE CONTROL/ALARM CIRCUIT
 POWERS THE MOTOR
 CONTACTOR COIL, ALL THE
 LIGHTS, AND THE BEACON &
 HORN.

• THE CONTROL/ALARM CIRCUIT IS SEPARATE ELECTRICALLY FROM THE PUMP CIRCUIT.

- **RED LEAD GOES TO FIRST FLOAT** ٠ **CONNECTION (NON-SWITCHED SIDE)**
- **BLACK LEAD GOES TO NEUTRAL AND STAYS** ٠ THERE
- **MEASURE VOLTAGE, IF IT IS PRESENT** ٠ MOVE THE RED LEAD DOWN TO THE NEXT **TERMINAL FOR THAT SAME FLOAT. LIFT** THE FLOAT AND SEE IF THE SAME VOLTAGE **IS PRESENT.**

CHECKING FLOATS



- SECURE BOTTOM FLOAT IN THE UP (CLOSED POSITION)
- LEAVE THE BLACK LEAD ON NEUTRAL ٠
- **RED LEAD GOES TO NON-SWITCHED** • SIDE OF SECOND FLOAT, CHECK VOLTAGE
- IF VOLTAGE IS PRESENT RAISE SECOND • FLOAT AND HOLD IT, MOVE RED LEAD TO THE NEXT TERMINAL OF THAT FLOAT (SWITCHED SIDE)

CHECKING FLOATS (CONT.)



CHECKING CONTROL/ALARM VOLTAGE IN A CONTROL PANEL

- PUT METER TO VOLTS A/C
- CONNECT BLACK LEAD TO "COM" TERMINAL & RED LEAD TO "V" TERMINAL
- PUT RED LEAD TO INCOMING POWER TERMINAL (L1)
- PUT BLACK LEAD TO NEUTRAL TERMINAL (N). SHOULD BE 120VAC





- LOCATE THE MOTOR CONTACTOR AND IDENTIFY THE COIL CONNECTIONS (USUALLY LABELED A1 AND A2). SET METER TO VOLTS A/C
- RED LEAD GOES TO ONE COIL CONNECTION.
- BLACK LEAD GOES TO THE OTHER COIL CONNECTION

FLUKE 179 THUE AME MULTIMET

MINMAX

120VAC

RANGE

1 mV Ω+

 PUT HOA SWITCH TO HAND AND WATCH TO SEE IF YOU HAVE VOLTAGE. IF YOU DO BUT THE CONTACTOR DOES NOT PULL IN THE CONTACTOR IS BAD, IF YOU DON'T HAVE VOLTAGE CHECK CONNECTIONS AND FUSES.

TROUBLESHOOTING A MOTOR CONTACTOR COIL



IN THIS EXAMPLE THE PUMP WILL NOT RUN IN HAND OR AUTO, CONTACTOR <u>DOES NOT</u> PULL IN. PUMP DOES RUN WHEN CONTACTOR IS PUSHED IN MANUALLY.

STEP 1: PLACE HOA SWITCH TO "OFF", CHECK INCOMING VOLTAGE FOR CONTROL ALARM CIRCUIT

STEP 2: CHECK FUSES AND CIRCUIT BREAKERS

STEP 3: PLACE HOA SWITCH TO "HAND"

STEP 4: CHECK VOLTAGE AT MOTOR CONTACTOR COIL



Alarm Circuit Troubleshooting



QUESTIONS?

PUMP CIRCUITS 101

CHECKING INCOMING PUMP VOLTAGE

- PUT METER TO VOLTS A/C •
- CONNECT BLACK LEAD TO "COM" AND • **RED LEAD TO "V" ON YOUR METER**
- PUT RED LEAD TO L1 TERMINAL IN • CONTROL PANEL
- PUT BLACK LEAD TO "L2" TERMINAL ٠ FOR 230VAC PUMPS, OR "N" **TERMINAL FOR 120VAC PUMPS IN CONTROL PANEL**

230VAC

1 mv Ω.+

Auto Rang



IN THIS EXAMPLE OUR PUMP WILL NOT RUN IN HAND OR AUTO, CONTACTOR <u>DOES</u> PULL IN.

STEP 1: WITH THE HOA SWITCH IN THE "OFF" POSITION WE CAN START BY CHECKING INCOMING POWER

STEP 2: CHECK VOLTAGE AT THE NEXT STOP (CIRCUIT BREAKER), CHECK BOTH THE TOP AND BOTTOM.

STEP 3: PUT THE HOA SWITCH TO "HAND" AND CHECK VOLTAGE ON EACH SIDE OF THE MOTOR CONTACTOR CONTACTS, FIRST THE TOP, THEN THE BOTTOM.

STEP 4: CHECK VOLTAGE AT THE PUMP CONNECTIONS.



TROUBLESHOOTING A PUMP CIRCUIT

- PUT PUMP HOA SWITCH INTO "HAND" AND CONFIRM THAT THE CONTACTOR IS PULLING IN – YOU SHOULD HEAR AN AUDIBLE "CLUNK". IF SO, PROCEED TO NEXT STEP – IF NOT CHECK VOLTAGE THROUGH THE CONTROL CIRCUIT (COULD BE A BAD M.C. COIL).
- CHECK VOLTAGE AT THE MOTOR CONNECTIONS IN THE PANEL – IF NO VOLTAGE TURN HOA TO "OFF" AND PROCEED TO NEXT STEP.
- CHECK PUMP INCOMING VOLTAGE IT SHOULD MATCH PUMP RATED VOLTAGE. IF YES THEN PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP.

TROUBLESHOOTING A PUMP CIRCUIT CONT.

- IF THERE IS A CIRCUIT BREAKER IN THE PANEL FOR THE PUMP CONFIRM THAT IT IS TURNED ON – NOT TRIPPED
- CHECK VOLTAGE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CIRCUIT BREAKER.
- CHECK VOLTAGE AT THE TOP (LINE SIDE) OF THE MOTOR CONTACTOR.
- PUT HOA INTO HAND AND CHECK VOLTAGE ON BOTTOM (LOAD SIDE) OF THE MOTOR CONTACTOR. IF NO REPLACE CONTACTOR, IF YES PROCEED TO NEXT STEP.
- CHECK VOLTAGE AT MOTOR CONNECTION TERMINAL
 BLOCK.



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU