

UTAH COUNTY TECHNICAL BULLETIN
2000-6



ANALYZER/HOST COMMUNICATIONS

Our Host Computer System is now operational. This gives us the ability to pull information from the analyzers and also send information or updates back to the analyzers. This feature is a critical component of the Utah2000 Analyzer and will allow greater flexibility for both our department and I/M stations. In order for this system to work properly each analyzer must be connected to a dedicated phone line each night. As mentioned in previous bulletins, we are allowing stations to share existing phone lines for the time being. However, shared phone lines **MUST** be dedicated to the analyzer during the night. This means that if you use a line for FAX, Credit card machine, Internet etc. during the day you must physically unplug it and plug it into the analyzer each night or have an electronic switch installed that switches the line between equipment.

DEADLINE FOR PHONE LINE INSTALLATION

We appreciate those of you that have installed your analyzer phone lines as requested in an earlier bulletin. We have not, however, enforced the March 1, 2000 deadline because of delays in software and hardware from the manufacturer. Now that we have an operational system we will enforce the new deadline of **December 1, 2000**. All analyzers must have completed a successful communication with our Host system by that date or you will be locked-out of testing. Testing will not be permitted until 2 successful communications with your analyzer have been completed. We strongly suggest that you do not wait until the deadline to test and verify the analyzer's ability to communicate with our host system. You may call our office to determine if there has been a successful communication with your analyzer. Our auditors will contact you throughout the month of November and notify you if there have been any unsuccessful attempts.

OBDII UPDATE

EPA has finally published their OBD testing guidance document. Although EPA believes it is important in most cases to verify an OBD-equipped vehicle's readiness status, they do not believe the motorist should be penalized for something beyond his/her control. Therefore, EPA is proposing to allow states to complete the testing process on model year 1996-2000 vehicles with two (2) or fewer unset readiness flags; for model year 2001+ vehicles, the testing process could be completed provided there is no more than one (1) unset readiness flag. This does not mean these vehicles are exempt from OBD-I/M testing. The complete MIL check and scan must be run in all cases, and the vehicle must be failed if the MIL is commanded on. The vehicle should continue to be rejected if it is model year 1996-2000 and has three (3) or more unset readiness flags or is model year 2001+ and has two (2) or more unset readiness flags.

We are currently negotiating with ESP to provide a software update that will reflect the EPA recommended changes to OBD test procedures. This may or may not be completed by January 1, 2001. If software changes are not completed by our official OBD implementation date, we may choose to allow two speed idle testing for those vehicles that fall into the above described category. We will inform you of any changes to the test procedure as we get closer to the implementation date.

TECH TIP # VE0033

WHAT CAUSES UNSUCCESSFUL ANALYZER/HOST COMMUNICATION ATTEMPTS?

There are several reasons why our communication attempts with your analyzer may fail. Listed below are the most common causes and their remedies.

Cause: Analyzer was not placed in “Shutdown Mode” with power switch left on.

Remedy: Select “Shutdown Analyzer” from the main menu. Follow the shutdown instructions and be sure to leave the main power switch ON overnight. Make this part of your nightly closing routine. This needs to be performed each night.

Cause: Your Fax machine is picking up the incoming call from our dialer.

Remedy: If the analyzer shares a phone line with another piece of equipment you MUST disconnect the other equipment from the line at night. The line must be dedicated to the analyzer each night.

Cause: Analyzer was not plugged into the phone line.

Remedy: If you unplug the analyzer during the day you must remember to plug it back in at night.

Cause: Analyzer modem malfunction.

Remedy: You may perform a modem self test from the communications diagnostics menu of the analyzer. Plug the phone line in and select “Modem Self-Test”. This will return a Pass/Fail result. Contact ESP service if it fails this test.

Cause: No dial tone at analyzer.

Remedy: Make sure the analyzer is plugged in. Select “Dial Tone Test” from communications diagnostics menu. This will return a Pass/Fail result. If this test fails, plug a known good telephone into the phone line going into the analyzer. If you hear a dial tone at the phone, there is a problem with your analyzer; contact ESP service. If you do not hear a dial tone at the phone, troubleshoot a faulty phone line.

Cause: You have given us the wrong phone number for the line that goes to the analyzer.

Remedy: Make sure the analyzer is plugged in. Select “Dial-In Test” from communications diagnostics menu. Using a telephone on a different line, dial the phone number you have given us for your analyzer. The analyzer should pickup the incoming call and return a Pass/Fail result. If this test passes, the number dialed is the correct number. If this test fails, the number you have given us is the wrong number for the line going to the analyzer.

