TELEPHONE LINE REQUIREMENTS

We now have enough information about the analyzer/host communications protocol to determine what type and number of telephone lines each station will be required to have. Some stations will need to install additional phone lines while others will not.

All UTAH2000 analyzers are required to be put into “standby” or “sleep” mode and connected to a functional phone line each evening and remain connected until the next morning (approximately 6:00PM to 6:00AM). Occasionally we will require this to be done during the day to allow us to communicate directly with the analyzer to clear lockouts, update technicians, load certificates, etc. The phone number for the line connected to the analyzer must not change and must be used exclusively for data communication with no incoming voice calls expected. Therefore, if you have an existing line that you use during the day to send and receive faxes or is used for a dial-up ISP account you would be able to share this line with the analyzer. If however all of your existing lines are used for incoming voice communications you will need to either install an additional line or change one of the incoming lines phone number and use it for data transmission only. If you have multiple analyzers in your shop you will need multiple phone lines also. Each with their own unique telephone number.

By sharing existing phone lines with other data communication equipment most shops can save some money and we can still communicate with the analyzers as needed. We may require dedicated phone lines be connected to each analyzer 24-7 in the future if we find that there are excessive “failed communications” logged by our host computer system. Individual analyzers will lock-out if they have not successfully completed any communications with the host within a preset period of time.

We may have limited analyzer/host communication capabilities by mid January 2000 or thereabouts. Please review your current telephone line situation and make the necessary changes in accordance with the above requirements.

FEE CHANGE UPDATE

During the December 14th County Commission meeting there was a public hearing held regarding the possible fee increase for emissions inspections. Only one speaker addressed the Commission and he was in favor of a fee increase of five dollars. The Commission said that they had reviewed all information submitted and concluded that a maximum fee of twenty dollars was not unreasonable and they would included a proposed fee increase during their fiscal fee review they do county-wide each calendar year. Without any guarantees, it looks like the test fee will be increased but we won’t know for sure for several more weeks. We will notify all stations of an effective date if a new higher fee limit is approved.