



Scary Innovations

Keeping technology's intimidation factor at bay.

BY RICH PERROTTA

We live in a fast-paced world of technological advances. At the same time, those of us in the HVACR industry have chosen a career path that requires some very basic, traditional skills in addition to having a strong grasp of technology. Possessing both will set us up for a good start in the race up the HVACR career ladder.

Start being the key word here. In our field we are constantly challenged by the unknown. I've found that the key to all of my endeavors is challenging those unknowns. To do that we must first develop a complete understanding of the basics. This requires a commitment to learn many different sciences, mechanical principals and electrical functions. We then must practice these learned principals in every possible situation until they become second nature.

Once we couple mastery of the fundamentals with the application of technology and a complete commitment to compiling a database of the ever-changing current technologies and methods, we can face each situation with one certainty: the almost-guarantee of resolution, success and a true sense of accomplishment.

This is the best way I know how to keep the intimidation factor of new technology at bay. It's something we all will feel, from the time we enter the field until the day we retire. It's normal to feel this sense of intimidation with every new challenge. What's important is that we learn to accept it, welcome it, and meet the challenge of technology head on. Each time you learn something new and apply that lesson to your own personal arsenal of knowledge, you will be well on your way to developing your career.

One more important point: when you face a new situation that seems impossible it is always good to reach out to a source for guidance. Calling on colleagues, instructors and

other experts can be a great tool in our box that can help us in our professions.

The great teachers of this world never stop learning and developing new techniques, and the same is true of the best students. The only difference between the two is personal experience. So the next time you compile another piece of data from your own experience remember that it would be a great injustice not to share it with your counterparts. Because the truth is we are all teachers and students working toward a common cause: success!

We have chosen a career path that requires dedication, commitment and structure. That last part—structure—has to be a constant work-in-progress, which, like any good building, starts with a solid foundation, but once finished, needs constant upkeep, remodeling and renovation.

As we enter a new season of challenges please take some of these ideas along in your tool box and when intimidation strikes, remember, you are not alone.

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