

Mistakes STOP Fox in Its Tracks!



HEY FOXY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

WHY CAN'T
YOU MOVE
ALONG WITH
THE REST OF
YOUR PALS?

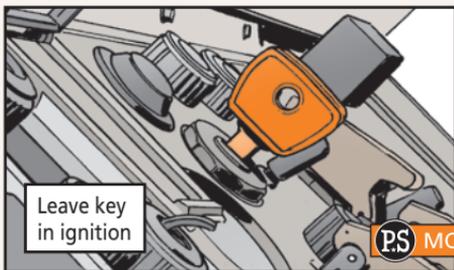
'CAUSE MISTAKES
HAVE STOPPED ME
IN MY TRACKS!

PM WOULD
HAVE KEPT
ME IN GREAT
SHAPE LIKE
THOSE OTHER
FOXES!

Dear Editor,

We help keep the Foxes on the road here at Ft Stewart. Through our work, we've noticed a few mistakes that Soldiers make that can stop a Fox in its tracks. But just a bit of attention can keep the Fox happily sniffing out trouble:

Leave the key in. All Foxes use the same key. Foxes are secured not by removing the key, but by padlocking the doors. When the key is removed it is often lost. Then Soldiers improvise by turning the ignition switch with a screwdriver or pocket knife. Soon the ignition switch is broken. Avoid that problem by leaving the key in the ignition all the time.

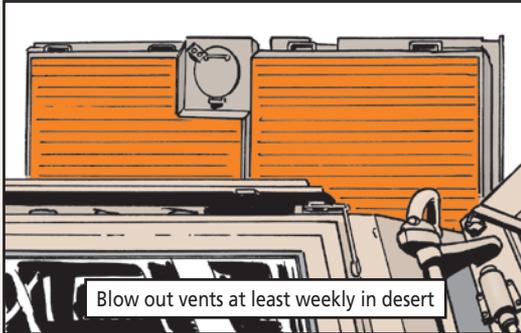


PS MORE

Let the warning lights warn you. If the dashboard warning lights kick on or you go above a certain speed, the Fox's anti-gas system activates and makes it difficult to press down on the gas pedal. Soldiers disable the system by turning off its circuit breaker. But then you won't be alerted to major problems like low oil pressure or the transmission overheating. A little extra speed is not worth that danger. Leave the circuit breaker alone.

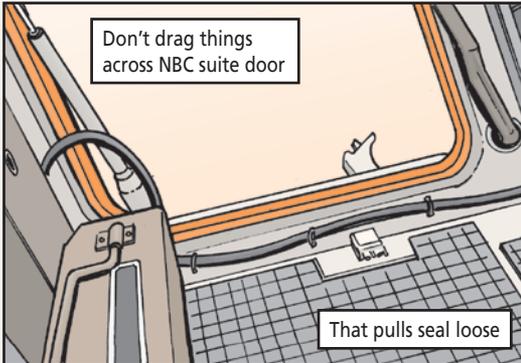
Clean means cool.

Fine sand clogs the grill door vents on top of the Fox. The lack of air to the A/C condenser causes the A/C to overheat. At least weekly in the desert, Fox crews need to blow out the vents from the inside out so that the A/C gets plenty of air. This helps the A/C work more efficiently, too, which means you stay cooler.



Blow out vents at least weekly in desert

Keep overpressure pressured. The usual causes of poor overpressure are plugged valves and poor seals. Dirt and trash like leaves can keep the two valves from sealing tight. Air escapes and you can't build up air pressure. Open both valves weekly and clean out any debris. Make sure their seals are in good shape, too.



Don't drag things across NBC suite door

That pulls seal loose

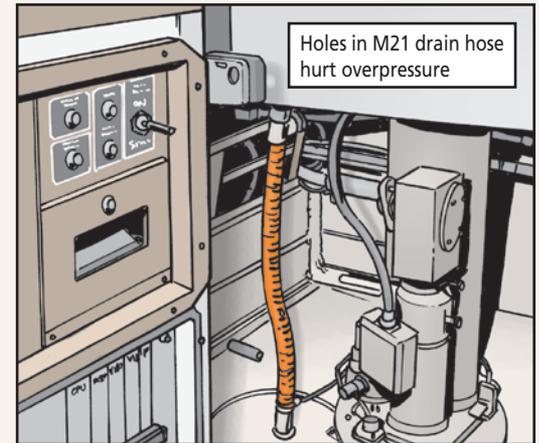
Be careful carrying stuff through the NBC suite door. If you drag things across the door's seal, the seal is pulled loose. Once again, the Fox can't build up air pressure.



Check door and hatch seals weekly for cuts and loose spots

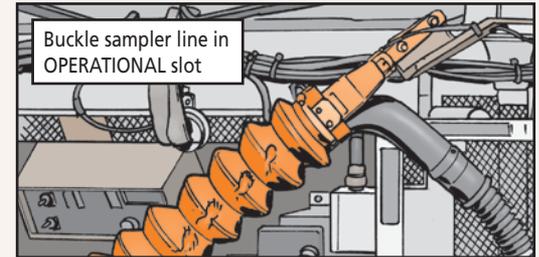
When you do your weekly PMCS, check the door and hatch seals for loose spots or tears. That way you can get them fixed before your next mission.

One other item that can cause overpressure problems is the drain hose that runs from the M21 container box to the floor plate. The hose is often accidentally kicked or bumped when Soldiers are working in the confined space of the NBC suite. If the hose is punctured, the overpressure system won't work. Watch your feet around the hose and remember to check the hose if the Fox can't build pressure.



Holes in M21 drain hose hurt overpressure

Buckle up for sampling. When you're using the double wheel sampler, make sure you have the sampler line securely buckled in the OPERATIONAL slot. If the sampler isn't secure, it could come off completely during travel. And it won't work in AUTOMATIC mode when it's not securely buckled in.



Buckle sampler line in OPERATIONAL slot

Carefully follow the procedure for starting and stopping the MM1 spectrometer. If you skip steps, the MM1 will fault out. That can damage circuit cards.

Randy Pearce
Ft Stewart, GA

Editor's note:

Thanks, Randy. Your suggestions will keep Foxes on the trail instead of in the shop.

NOW THAT WE GOT THROUGH THOSE TIPS, LET'S REJOIN THE CONVOY!

