MURPHY'S LAW

Murphy's Law effectively states that :-
IF ANYTHING CAN GO WRONG, IT WILL!

Putting it in a mathematical form, 1+1Σ2
Where Σ represents the mathematical symbol **HARDLY EVER**.

Corollaries as applied to Telecommunications are as follows:-

1) Any completed and checked drawing will neither be complete nor correct.
2) Data will always be expressed in the least convenient form.
3) Important reference books will be missing, incorrect or out of date.
4) Vital instructions will invariably be received too late or lost.
5) If a project requires N components, there will always be N-1 components available.
6) The missing component will always be the most important one.
7) Nominally interchangeable parts will exhibit fundamental differences.
8) Cables cut exactly to length will be too short.
9) Connection leads will always be faulty, missing or of the wrong size.
10) Any item dropped will land where it will do the maximum damage or in the most inaccessible spot. (This is also known as the law of Selective Gravitation.)
11) The replacement for any item dropped will never be found in the "ready to use store" kept in ones pockets. (Also known as the law of Displaced Objects)
12) If a circuit cannot fail, it will - generally catastrophically.
13) Backups will only function during non essential testing.
14) The probability of failure is inversely proportional to the ease of repair.
15) Fail-safe circuits will always destroy those adjacent to them.
16) In overall performance tests, all errors are cumulative.
17) Equipment which works during testing, will always fail when put into service.
18) The most delicate repairs will always have to be carried out in the roughest conditions.
19) The faulty component will always be the last one checked, irrespective of where a start is made.
20) The most essential piece of test equipment will (a) not work, (b) not be present or (c) explode.
21) Several pieces of totally unrelated but essential equipment will always fail together.
22) A most important point, discovered with the advent of modern solid state technology is that transistors exist for the protection of fuses.
23) Murphy was an OPTIMIST!

Drafted from over 20 years of Nautical Electronic experience by a Marine Electronics Officer.
I have experienced every one at least once, and some several times! I think Murphy must have been a sailor, as some of his laws seem to be borne out in daily life on board ships!