

Pre-Observing Procedures

This procedure is only for when the telescope has been used regularly and was not left in lightning shutdown. If things are obviously a miss (I.E. the power to everything is off) it would be good to perform the [Startup Procedure](#).

Before actually performing any steps to get the telescope ready for observing you must check a few things and note any anomalies in the trouble report. These include:

Outside

- Is the dome open at all?
- During cold weather, is there ice or snow drifts on the back of the shutter or around the lower shutters limit switches?
- During cold weather, is there snow above the entry way that would interfere with the domes rotation?
- Is the dome positioned at a strange angle? (I.E. not South or directly over the entryway door).

Inside

- Look at optical tape for signs of insect residue and condensation.
- Look at drive and idler bearings for signs of the insect residue.
- If humidity is high, examine primary mirror to see if it is fogged over.
- Verify E-stops for telescope are not engaged.
- Verify E-stops for dome (controller and shutter) are not engaged.
- [Interpret current Telescope Orientation](#)
- Check connections to TIM unit (check for snug connection for power and rotator).

If the answer to any of these questions is *YES* then there may be a problem and it should be noted in the trouble report.

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