

The "fire" in the electronic fireplace comes from four lightbulbs located under the logs. They are probably just burned out, so changing them will fix the problem. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as it sounds, but it is really a do-it-yourself kind of job.

The original light bulbs were 60 watt incandescent candelabra-type bulbs. They run quite hot and will have fused some things together inside the fireplace that are awkward to disassemble.

To change the bulbs first remove the glass front of the fireplace. Push the spring-loaded levers at each end of the metal plate above the glass inward and pull the top out, then lift the whole glass assembly out.

Then take out the horizontal metal plate in front of the logs. It is held down by two screws (#2 Philips) and pulls straight up when those are removed. It may stick a little.

Then carefully take up the logs. They are fragile, made of light plastic and Styrofoam and held together by screws, and they have been exposed to a lot of heat whenever the fireplace was used. If you pull on the top logs to try to lift them out they will come apart. They may stick a little at the bottom from the years of heat exposure, but carefully pry them up at the bottom. That exposes the four bulbs.

On my fireplace the bulb bases were badly corroded and fused to the sockets. The glass on the bulbs is thin, and they are fragile. On three of my bulbs the glass separated from the base when I tried to unscrew them, and I had to pull the base on each of those out from the socket with needle-nose pliers. It is tedious since the base will break up in the process.

To avoid this problem, try putting a little pressure on the bulbs against the base as you turn them. Likely they will still separate, and you do not want to use so much pressure that the bulb glass breaks in your hand.

To get the separated bases out of the sockets you will want to take off the metal plate in which the sockets are mounted. That metal plate is held on by two screws at each end. It is wired into the fireplace, so you cannot easily remove it entirely, but you can face it up to see what you are doing as you remove the broken bulb bases.

While you have everything apart you will want to vacuum and clean, including the logs. The fire will appear much brighter when that is done. The dust on mine was thick, and the difference after they were cleaned was enormous.

For replacement bulbs buy LED 60 watt replacement bulbs in soft white with the B11 base, not incandescent bulbs like the old ones. That will reduce future heat damage, and they will last longer. They should be labeled for use in enclosed spaces. Home Depot has them in packages of 3 (Ecosmart #1004 892 334).