

PORTABLE RADIO STORAGE DURING SUMMER BREAK

One of the major causes of shortened portable radio battery life is improper storage of batteries during long periods of inactivity. Every fall we observe schools needing to replace batteries due to sitting in a discharged state or left in the charger during the summer vacation break.

Currently, there are three chemistry types of batteries commonly used in portable radios; nickel-cadmium (NiCAD), nickel-metal-hydride (NiMH), and lithium-ion (Li-ion). All three types exhibit a certain level of self-discharge between charges. Additionally, certain circuits in the radio always draw a very small amount of current whether or not the radio is turned on. Normally, the amount of battery discharge during short periods of non-use is not significant or noticeable. However, during a period of several months batteries may become fully discharged which may significantly reduce their long-term service life.

On the other hand, leaving the battery in the charger for several months can also reduce the service life of the battery. When in the charger, the battery temperature will elevate as a result of the charging process. As the battery temperature increases, so do the chemical reactions in the battery. The higher rate of unnecessary chemical reactions throughout the summer months will result in a corresponding loss of battery life.

The following procedure is recommended when storing portable radios for periods exceeding two or three weeks. The procedure is the same for all chemistry types of batteries.

- 1. Charge the radio battery overnight so it will have a complete charge.**
- 2. Remove the radio battery from the charger.**
- 3. If possible, remove the battery from the radio. Most radios have a battery latch on the bottom of the radio which when pushed toward the front of the radio will release the battery.**
- 4. Store the radios and batteries in a cool, dry location for the period of inactivity.**
- 5. The day before the radio will be placed back in service, reattach the battery to the radio and charge the radio battery again overnight.**

The above procedure will insure the best life for your radio batteries, which is normally two to three years of daily use and charging.

Please call us should you have additional questions concerning radio and battery care or other radio use issues.

***Industrial
Communications***

M-F 9:00 to 5:00 Sat by appointment

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