

## **Battery storage**

### **By Joseph Parish**

It is a very demanding task today to find devices which do not attain their power from batteries. Every electronic device manufactured needs some sort of power and batteries are the generally accepted choice especially for mobile type applications. There is considerable praise which can be extended towards storing up on extra batteries but the question remains as to exactly how many batteries we should stock up on. If one were to take a random selection of batteries which they use they might possibly come up with over a hundred D cells alone. Equally important is how long they will last at an optimal level. A rough estimate might cover three sets of batteries per device – the set which is currently in the equipment plus two additional sets as spares.

Naturally, this will all depend upon your survival group and how many devices you will actually be using once the infrastructure is down. You will certainly need radios and flashlights but remember you can find both of these items in a hand crank or solar version.

When evaluating the quantity of batteries to store in our emergency supplies we must bear in mind that in most cases the piece of equipment using the batteries is not used on a continual basis. We may not have a requirement to use our weather radio until the sky overhead indicates less than favorable conditions. For our normal everyday use we will likely rotate our supply of batteries between a select few devices.

You can store up on as many batteries as you can but unfortunately if our infrastructure deteriorates to the level expected you will eventually have no means at your disposal to replace them. Thinking along these lines it would make good sense to store up on rechargeable batteries instead of the common disposable versions. On tests conducted on various rechargeable batteries, Energizer displayed the highest rating for their rechargeable.

If you insist upon a small supply of the disposable batteries you can frequently find a 36 pack of AA batteries at home depot for approximately \$13. Purchasing four or more of these packs will put you well on your way to sufficient battery supplies. You will want to also stock up on the C, D and AAA cells often found in blister packs of 10 or 20 to a pack usually at reasonable prices. Although used less frequently these days you should consider stocking up on the 9 volt square batteries which are employed in items such as backup power for clocks and smoke detectors, various metal detectors and for weather warning radios. Rifle scopes generally use the CR2032 while night vision equipment and other high power devices will use the 123s.

Give serious consideration towards replacing those flashlights which might require multiple batteries such as two D or six d cells. Replace them with those that use two D cells, two AA or the CR123. Radiation meters can be purchased which use a single D cell. Try to reduce the number of batteries used in a device and your supply will last much longer.

A typical scenario could consist of this. It would not be unusual for you to go through 3 batteries per walkie-talkie and if you have say eight at your retreat you are looking at 24 batteries tied up just in short distance communications. This consumption may be per shift if you have an active group. You can readily see how your battery supply would need to be very extensive.

In an occasional four hours of communications you could easily use up a set of four AAA cells. By the end of the day you will likely need to replace these with fresh batteries. Now you can begin to appreciate the rechargeable more. As a final note I would highly recommend that you avoid the "Dollar Store" batteries. I have found them to be of poor quality and many have leaked prematurely or die shortly after placing them in the device. You are better off to spend a little more and get quality batteries that you can rely upon.