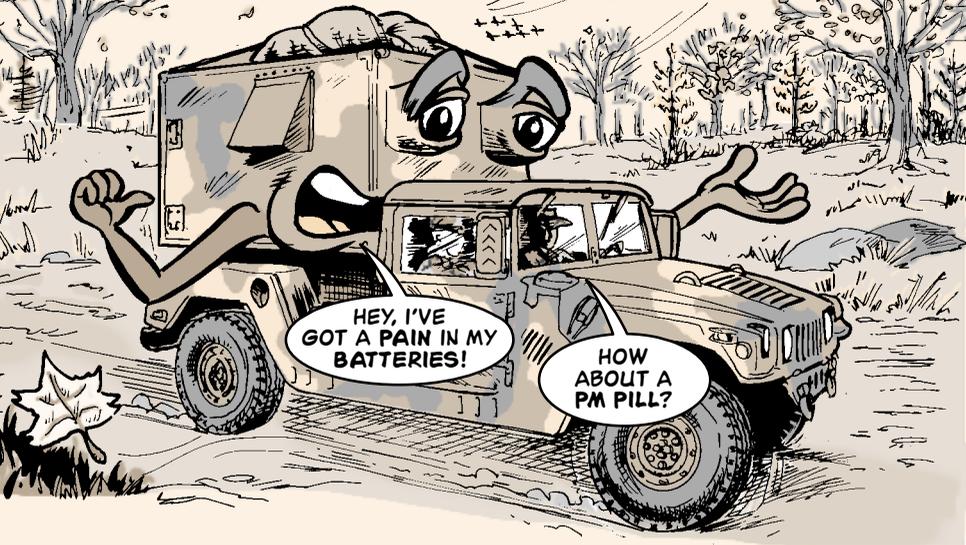


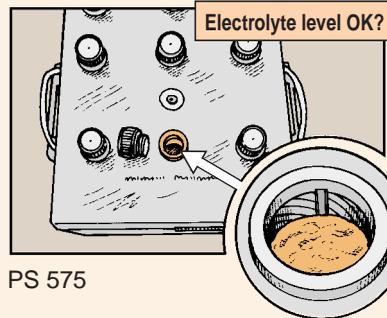
It's About Batteries



MSE operator/maintainers, pulling PM on your shelter's two lead-acid backup batteries is your job. And from the looks of some of those batteries, more than a few of you should be fired!

Here are five things you should always do:

1. Make sure battery plates are covered with electrolyte by adding distilled water when needed. It must be



1/2 inch above the top of the plates. Some batteries have lips inside or indicators to show where the electrolyte level should be. If yours don't, you'll have to eyeball them.

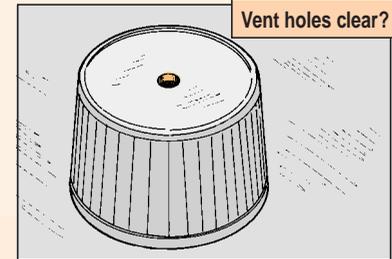
The chemical action between the electrolyte and the cell plates produces electricity. Without it, batteries discharge and die.

But remember, more is not better. Too much water—like filling cells to the top—is just as bad as too little. When the cell is too full, electrolyte is flushed out during charging. Since the battery can't recharge itself, it dies.

You can get six 1-gal bottles of distilled water with NSN 6810-00-682-6867. Get one 5-gal bottle with NSN 6810-00-356-4936.

In a pinch—to save the battery—rainwater, air conditioner condensation or even tap water will do. But, filter it through a clean cloth before using it.

2. Always make sure the vent holes in vent caps are open to let gases escape. Also, make sure the caps are screwed down tight. If you have clogged caps that can't be cleaned, or missing caps, replace them with NSN 6140-01-387-5045.



3. Check terminal posts, clamps, cables, battery hold-downs and the battery box for dirt or corrosion. Corrosion eats up metal parts on and around batteries. Dirt and corrosion on the tips of the batteries

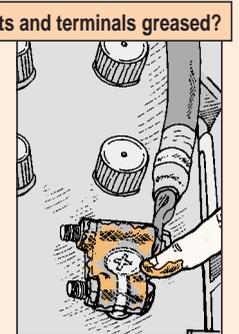
can hold moisture that can close the circuit between the positive and negative terminals and discharge your battery.

Wipe off light dirt and corrosion with a cloth. To fight heavy corrosion, take out the battery and any metal parts that can be removed. Scrub the battery with water and baking soda.

After cleaning, rinse with lots of clean water and dry well. Protect bare metal with bituminous coating compound, NSN 8030-00-290-5141. Shine up battery posts and clamps with battery terminal brush, NSN 5120-00-926-5175.

4. Make sure a light coat of GAA grease is applied

and covers all posts and terminals after clamping down the battery. Keep grease from between posts and terminals.



5. Check for cracks or bulges in the battery and any signs of leaking electrolyte. If you see any of these signs, get your support on the job.

