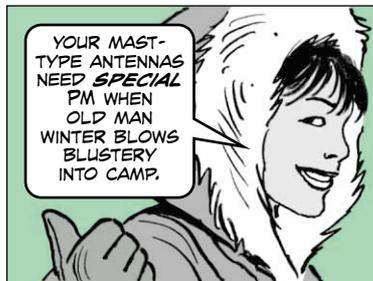


WITHSTANDING THE COLD



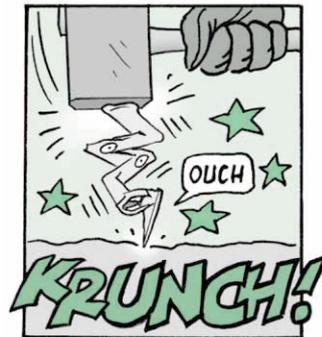
Frozen ground makes it tough to drive in a guy stake. So cold-weather stakes may be just what you need to make the going a little easier. Get the GP-101 cold-weather stake with NSN 4030-00-187-5265.

But you have to watch those cold-weather stakes. They're slimmer, so they don't hold as well when the ground thaws. Keep an eye on them during warming days.

If you're in an extreme cold and frozen situation, mountain pitons are excellent anchors for guy ropes. There are a variety of types under FSC 8465 and supplied by GSA.

In addition, in extreme cold ropes can freeze to the ground and to guys tied to these anchor ropes. Wear gloves and take your time when handling them.

If even cold-weather stakes fail, tie your rope to something sturdy, like a tree or pole. In any case, never use fewer guys than your TM calls for. If you use less, your antenna may end up on the cold, hard ground.



Grease the Joints

To keep your antenna joints from freezing up, just add some lube. A little dab of silicone will usually do the trick.

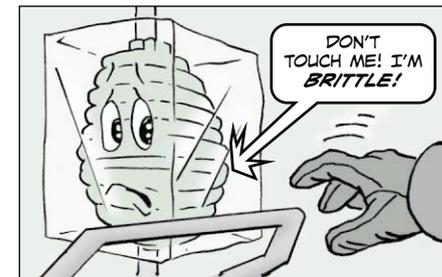
You can get an 8-oz tube with NSN 6850-00-880-7616.

Clean the mating surfaces inside and out before applying the lube.

Keep Bowl Dry

Water collects in ceramic bowls during warm weather. When a cold snap hits, water can turn into ice. That can crack the glass. Also, the freezing temperatures make the glass more brittle. So handle it carefully.

Once you've wiped the bowl clean and dry, reach for your tube of silicone again. Seal the insulator before you join the two halves.



Cable Care

Your RF cables need special handling during cold weather, too. Insulation becomes brittle and can break. That can damage delicate wiring inside and also let moisture in.

Protect the cable by taping it to the antenna. That keeps it from being whipped by the wind.

Normal tape loses some of its staying power in sub-freezing temperatures, so use cold-weather tape, NSN 5970-00-723-5413.

