

OUTFOXING FOX PROBLEMS

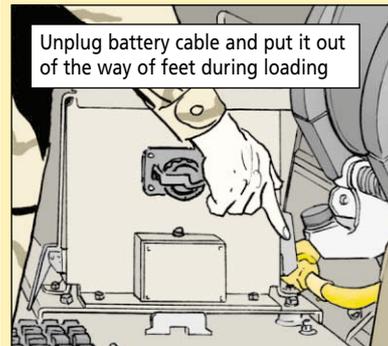


Dear Editor,

We have suggestions on batteries, brakes, probes and swimming that can help crews keep their Foxes on the NBC trail:

--Batteries--

The NBC battery cable tends to be stepped on and broken when crews are loading equipment in the back of the NBC compartment. Then you're out of business until the cable and its connector are replaced. Prevent that by disconnecting the cable and putting it out of way of feet before loading or unloading stuff. Once you're finished, reconnect the cable.



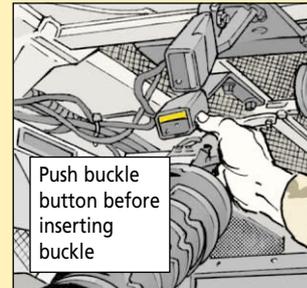
--Brakes--

If you're driving along and suddenly it seems like the engine loses power, check the auxiliary brake (jake brake). If you've stored items next to the auxiliary brake, a bump in the road can throw stuff against the brake and activate it. You think you have a serious engine or transmission problem when it's just the brake. Of course, the best course is not to store anything next to the brake.



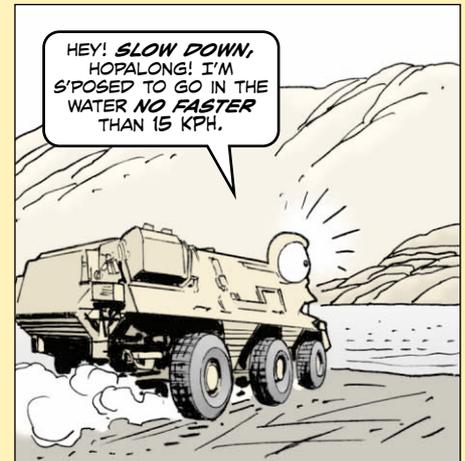
--Probe--

The probe has a buckle that holds it in place in both the stow and monitoring positions. Fox crews often ram the buckle in place like they would a car seat belt, instead of pressing the buckle's button before inserting the buckle. That breaks the button and then the probe won't stay in position, which makes sampling difficult. Just remember to press the button before inserting the buckle.



--Swimming--

Be careful to swim the way your Fox is supposed to: Enter the water no faster than 15 kph with the brow plane open and the propellers turning. We've found if you enter the water too fast, water can get in the exhaust and then into the engine, where it causes all sorts of problems.



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Editor's note: Excellent suggestions! Your ideas will help Fox crews avoid downtime and damage.