

# A BAKER'S DOZEN

WHEN WE THINK OF THE NUMBER 13, MOST OF US THINK OF BAD LUCK.

BUT HERE ARE 13 COLD-WEATHER COMMO TIPS THAT WILL BRING YOU ONLY GOOD LUCK.



1) Carry small batteries inside your clothes to keep them warm. Reactivate cold-soaked batteries by warming them under your clothes. Keep the batteries from contact with other metal objects.



2) If a radio set must be set up outside, put it in a sheltered place. A wind block, like a lean-to, helps keep sets away from direct exposure to cold winds.



3) Raise RF cables above the ground to keep them from freezing to the ground. Use poles or tree limbs to raise the cables.



4) Check antenna systems often and remove snow, ice or slush that might diminish your signal or create a "falling ice" hazard.

5) Put frost shields over microphones. If you don't have a shield or your headset doesn't have a place to fit one, a piece of plastic—like a battery bag—will do the job.



6) Remove all snow, ice, water and dirt from cable connections before connecting them. You'll get a poor connection or broken connectors if you don't.



7) Rubber and rubber compounds become stiff and brittle as temperatures plunge. In cold weather, cables and wire should be flexed slowly and carefully to keep them from cracking and breaking.



8) Lube, but don't over-lube. Lubricants can get stiff in cold weather and fail to do their job. The keys to lubing in the cold are frequent checks, to make sure lube hasn't gotten stiff, and frequent applications.



9) Plugs, jacks, keys, shafts, bearings, dials, and switches can malfunction due to contraction of metal parts in extreme cold. Check them often and keep them warm and clean.

10) Make sure all motors and fans run freely. Snow and ice build-up can shut down a critical fan and kill a much-needed motor.



11) Make sure all knobs and controls move easily. Stiff controls might indicate a freezing problem.



12) Keep cables out from under the snow. Pull them free after every snowfall. A cable hidden under snow is hard to find—except when it's pulled loose by a big foot or run over by a track.



13) Any equipment that generates heat during operation will "breathe" or draw in cold air as the equipment cools. If heated equipment is brought into contact with extremely cold air, the glass, plastic and ceramic parts may break. So give hot equipment time to cool down before taking it out of a shelter into the cold.

"Sweating" is the opposite of "breathing." If cold equipment is brought into contact with warm air, the moisture in the air will condense on the equipment and freeze when the equipment is taken into the cold again.

So wrap cold equipment in a blanket or parka for a bit before you take it into a heated shelter.