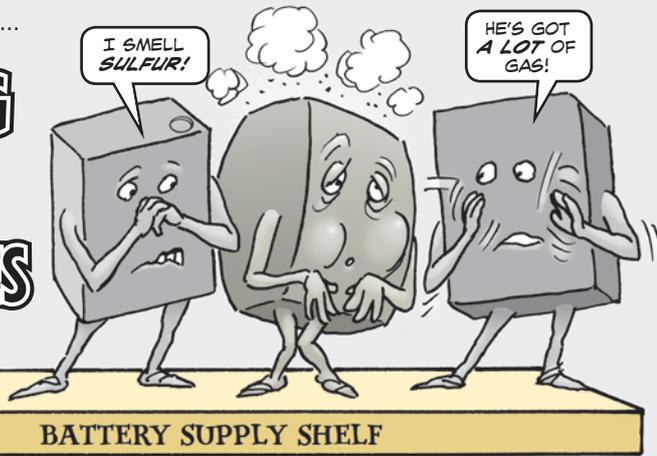


HANDLING LITHIUM BATTERIES



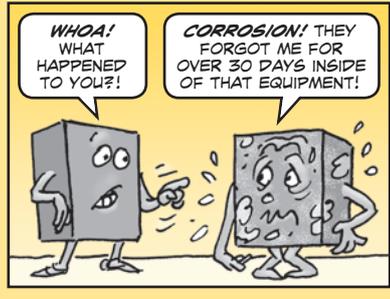
Once you get lithium sulfur dioxide nonrechargeable batteries on your shelf and in use, you need to handle them in a very specific way, because they contain pressurized, poisonous sulfur dioxide gas.

These batteries must not be abused in any way that would rupture them! Here's how to handle them properly:

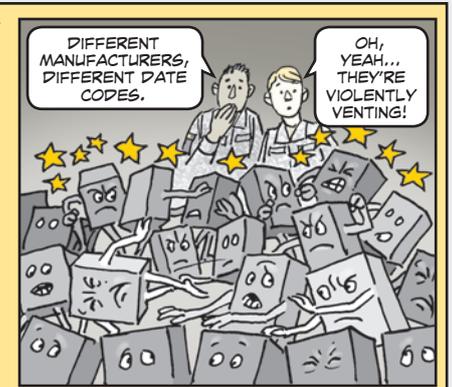
- Keep batteries in their original packaging until you're ready to use them.
- During operation, if the battery compartment is hot to the touch, hisses, makes a burping sound, or if you smell sulfur, turn off the equipment and let it cool for at least an hour. Keep everyone away from the area.
- Never short-circuit, crush, puncture or incinerate batteries.
- Never use batteries that are swollen, or that won't fit easily into the battery compartment.



- Never use batteries if there is liquid in the plastic storage wrap, or if they've bulged or burst.
- Never attempt to charge a primary battery.
- If you suspect bad batteries, try substituting good ones. If defective batteries are found, report these through normal channels.
- When you aren't planning to use your equipment for 30 days or longer, take out the batteries to prevent battery corrosion damage.



- If there is more than one prime power lithium battery in the equipment, and you find a bad one, replace all of them. It could be that the bad one has led to increased drain on the others or sped up the corrosion process. Use batteries from the same manufacturer and with the same date code, if possible. Mixing batteries can lead to violent venting.
- Never use a fire extinguisher on a lithium battery fire. In the event of a lithium fire, evacuate the area immediately and call for trained firefighters and the hazmat team.
- Never store batteries near heat, flame or other hazardous materials.
- Never smoke or use an open flame in a battery storage area.
- If the battery has a complete discharge device (CDD), have the person designated to discharge the battery before turn-in or disposal do his stuff.
- Have personal protection equipment on hand and use it when handling batteries that are leaking, bulging, swelling or deformed. Never handle hot batteries. NSN 4240-00-542-2048 will get you a face shield. Get a full body apron with NSN 8415-00-082-6108.



Discharging

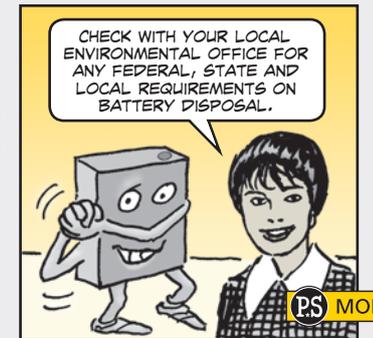
If you're the designated battery discharge person and it's your job to activate CDDs, here's what you need to do:

- Discharge the batteries in a secure, well-ventilated area, away from people and hazardous material.
- Set discharging batteries at least two inches apart on all sides.
- Let the batteries sit a minimum of seven days for complete discharge as per label on the battery.



Remember that discharging batteries may be hot. The heat could even deform the battery case. That's normal. But, if you hear a hissing sound or smell a strong, pungent odor, clear the area immediately until the odor has gone and the hissing has stopped. This is a battery venting and you must dispose of vented batteries as hazardous waste.

At the end of a normal, complete discharge cycle, the amount of lithium remaining in the battery will be small enough to let you dispose of the battery as non-hazardous waste. Even so, some places may require special procedures.



Pubs



MSDS

Finally, and most importantly, read the material safety data sheet (MSDS) on lithium batteries before you handle them.

Where do you get an MSDS? Glad you asked!

Log on to the Internet and go to:

<http://www.dlis.dla.mil/hmirs/>

Once at the web site, click on:

HMIRS Registration Forms

Download the registration form, fill it in and then send it in. You'll get an email back with a user ID. Once you have the ID, you can click on:

Connect to HMIRS

From there, you can search by stock number, part number, CAGE code or contract number for the MSDS you need.

If you have questions about a battery MSDS, email:

AMSEL-SF@mail1.monmouth.army.mil

If you have trouble accessing the web site, contact DLIS:

DLIS-Support@dlis.dla.mil

Or call them at DSN 661-7766 or (877) 352-2255.

Don't have access to the Internet and need an MSDS in a hurry? Call DSN 987-7445 or (732) 427-7445.

