

**Ames Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines**

Book: 2 – Routine Operations
Section: III – Equipment Operations
Chapter: 3 – **Radio Battery Maintenance**
Date Approved: 06-19-2013 Revision No.: 2 Approved by: 
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PURPOSE:

This guideline provides direction on the maintenance of the Ames Fire Department portable radio batteries. Proper maintenance of portable radio batteries will increase the overall life span of the battery and its ability to hold a charge.

POLICY:

All AFD members share the responsibility of properly maintaining portable radio batteries. These additional departmental policies do not supersede manufacturer's specifications and recommendations.

PROCEDURE:

Receiving New Batteries

- New batteries need to be conditioned immediately upon receipt.
- Both sides of new batteries need to be labeled. Templates for battery labels can be found on station computers. The location for these markings are as follows:
 - AFD marking (battery to radio interface side)
 - Shift rotation marking (battery clip side)

Battery Analyzing and Conditioning

AFD portable radio batteries will be analyzed on Tuesdays, including City holidays. Each shift will be responsible for $\frac{1}{3}$ of their station's batteries and will only analyze $\frac{1}{2}$ of their batteries in that three-week rotation.

After analyzing, if the battery fails to reach 1100 mAh, then the battery should be conditioned. If the battery fails to reach 1100 mAh after conditioning, then replace the battery.

Battery Charging

On Tuesdays, all batteries not being conditioned should be placed in the Motorola Rapid Chargers until they are fully charged, assuring that all batteries are charged at least weekly. Care must be taken to assure adequate portable radio availability on apparatus while charging/conditioning.

Additional charging can be performed anytime after significant use. Batteries should be charged anytime the audible low battery alarm sounds.

Battery Storage

Radios are to be stored in the off position. Batteries will be attached to portable radios in apparatus and staff vehicles. All batteries not attached to radios should be kept on apparatus so they are available at incidents.