YR Ed Moment
Powering Your YR

What are you going to do during an emergency when your YR battery dies? Think about that for a second while we get organized…. Tonight's Ed Moment is about keeping your YR powered after the lights go out. Details of this Ed Moment are already posted on the EVCNB.ORG website under EMCOMM/Thursday Radio Net if you'd like to follow along.

In a large disaster we may be without normal communication for weeks or months. Your regular YR battery will not last that long so what to do….

Your standard YR battery will last 1-2 days depending on how much talking you do. It will last 3-4 days just listening.

The extra-long high-capacity battery doubles that - 2-4 days with normal talking, 4-6 days of listening. Having a couple of extended capacity batteries in reserve is a good idea. Don't forget to charge them up. A high-capacity battery is $15.

The next option is a AA-battery case. These are extra-long empty cases take 6 regular AA alkaline batteries. So having a AA-case and a bunch of AA alkaline batteries is a good fall-back. We recommend Amazon bulk AA alkaline over Costco. We have had leaking problems with Costco batteries. This option has about the same capacity as the standard small YR battery. A battery case is under $10.

The next option involves using a vehicle's 12v battery. We won't be driving much so there should be plenty of cars around at least until the gas runs out. You can power your YR directly from a car's cig lighter using a battery eliminator. This arrangement will last a long time due to the high capacity of car batteries. The downside is that you need to sit in your car to use the YR. A battery eliminator is $15.

To use your YR normally, you can keep your YR batteries charged using a inexpensive 12v-to-110vac inverter and the regular YR desktop charger. There are tons of these inverters available on Amazon for under $25.

All of these options are very inexpensive.

Of course, if you have access to a generator, using the regular YR desktop charger is always an option.

Finally, there are high-capacity batteries that are recharged with solar panels. They have internal inverters so you use them with your desktop charger. These are more expensive in the $300-400 range. Consult the website notes for a couple of examples from Bioenno Power and Goal Zero.

It's good to think ahead about keeping your YR powered in an emergency and having a couple of options up your sleeve.

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