

RSFWSU Battery Replacement Policy

NFDRS standards state; “Replace batteries according to manufacturer recommendations or if you suspect problems.” As major consumable items, batteries are treated in a different manner than sensors or other components of a RAWS. The following RSFWSU policy addresses currently supported manufacturers’ replacement schedules and the associated maintenance actions for all RAWS covered by Depot Maintenance service contracts.

Vaisala Fixed and Portable Stations / FTS Portable Stations:

Battery should be replaced every 3 years as regular preventative maintenance, or earlier as required.

1. Customer orders replacement battery through WFMI.
2. Replacement battery shipped to customer by RSFWSU.

FTS Fixed Stations:

Battery should be replaced every 6 years as regular preventative maintenance, or earlier as required.

1. Customer orders replacement battery through WFMI, and includes local battery vendor’s name and phone number in the “Special Instructions” section.
2. RSFWSU will contact the specified vendor and will provide up to \$200 toward the purchase of a replacement battery.
3. Customer picks up replacement battery locally.

FTS D-cell auxiliary Battery Packs:

Batteries should be replaced yearly during station preventative maintenance to prevent corrosion and destruction of the battery pack. (Customer acquires replacement D-cell batteries at their own expense.)

General:

Do not return used batteries to RSFWSU. Local units must dispose of all batteries.

All stations must be equipped with a solar panel of 20 watts or greater. The exception is the Handar model 540 DCP, which requires a 10 watt solar panel. RSFWSU is not responsible for battery replacement if a solar panel of under 20 watts is installed, or if improper installation is the cause of battery failure.

Please coordinate with the RAWS Help Desk (208-387-5475 or “blm_fa_raws_helpdesk@blm.gov”) to address any suspected battery malfunction issues, or questions regarding solar panel installations.