

GENERAL BATTERY SAFETY

Batteries contain acid and lead. They operate at fairly low voltages, but hold very large amounts of power (high "ampacity"). Battery safety is fairly easy, but very important. When working around batteries, keep in mind that they can be very dangerous when improperly treated.

Rule #1: DON'T SHORT THE BATTERY!

The lead posts sticking out of the battery top are where the electricity is put into and taken out of the battery. Connecting the two posts together on one battery, or the wrong posts together on multiple batteries, can cause a short circuit. A short circuit in a battery causes it to try to discharge completely, very quickly. These high current levels can cause serious burns, can cause the battery to rupture or explode, causing severe injury, and possibly death. The simplest way to avoid this is to not let any metal contact the battery posts. We have placed heat shrink tubing around the posts to avoid this.

Rule #2: If you use any tools (wrenches for tightening connections, funnels for water addition, etc.) make sure they are either small enough that they cannot contact two metal posts at once, or cover all exposed metal with several layers of electrical tape.

Rule #3: Do not smoke or have any other flames or sparks near the batteries.

Rule #4: Use only the ORCboard power supply to recharge the battery. Chargers are very specific to batteries and using an inappropriate one can damage the battery or make it underperform.

Part of this information was obtained from Global Resource Options P.O. Box 161 Strafford, VT 05072 | 800-374-4494 |