



ANNUAL FCC BATTERY BACKUP DISCLOSURE

Backup Power for Residential Facilities-Based, Fixed Voice Telephone Services During Power Outages:

For many years, your landline telephone would allow you to stay connected to emergency voice services during a power outage. However, if your residential voice telephone service is provided using fiber optics, fixed wireless, or by coaxial cable, rather than the traditional twisted pair copper-based line, the residential voice telephone service requires backup battery power to continue functioning during a power outage. **To avoid a disruption of home voice service during a power outage - and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services – Piedmont Communications provides you with a battery for backup power for your residential fiber optic voice telephone service at the time of the initial installation at no additional cost.**

What Your Battery Can - and Can't - Do for You: The backup battery for facilities-based, fixed voice service allows you to continue to use your voice services during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup power source such as a generator, customers with fiber, fixed wireless or coaxial cable delivered services will not be able to make calls, including emergency calls to 911. The only way to maintain the ability to use your voice service is by using some form of backup power.

Inability to Use Cordless Phones and Other Devices During A Power Outage:

If you have a cordless phone, it will not work during a power outage as your cordless phone requires power from an external power source like an electric outlet in your home. To use your cordless phone, you would need to power the cordless phone with a backup generator or UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). In order to use your Piedmont Communications Voice service during power outages, we suggest that you keep a corded phone on hand. Corded phones, unlike cordless phones, do not need a separate power source to operate.

Piedmont Communications backup battery only provides backup power to Piedmont's fiber optic voice services; not intended for Internet, WiFi, or third-party VoIP or other internet applications. Devices that rely on voice service, such as home security systems, medical monitoring devices, TTY devices, and other equipment may be disrupted if there is an electrical power outage unless those devices are powered by an alternate power source such as a generator or UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). These type of alternate power sources are available from third party retail vendors.

Expected Backup Battery Power Duration: The backup battery included with your Piedmont Communications voice service is expected to last up to 8 hours on standby power. The backup battery should give you approximately 4 to 6 hours of talk time. If you require a backup battery with a longer standby and talk time, please contact us. We offer batteries with up to a 24-hour standby time, for additional cost.

Instructions for Proper Care and Use of Your Backup Battery: Your backup battery is typically located near the Piedmont Communications Fiber Optic Network Terminal "ONT". Ask your technician the location of your backup battery during installation. The battery for your fiber optic voice services is designed to be operated in temperatures above 14°F and below 120°F. Backup batteries are rechargeable and have an estimated useful life span of 6-10 years. Piedmont's advanced electronics monitors the battery voltage and will alert us when it is low or when your device starts to make a loud beeping sound, this means that the battery is depleted and must be replaced. You will not need to access the battery, however if you experience any problems with your Piedmont Communications fiber optic voice service during a power outage of less than 8 hours, please promptly notify us. Piedmont Communications will provide and install at no cost to you, a replacement backup battery. If you have any questions, please call 336.787.5433 or email us at info@ptmc.net

