

Verizon Battery Back Ups = Update

February 19, 2018

A Conference Call with the Verizon Engineer who designed the Battery Back Up currently sold by Verizon was enlightening. The following information was provided by the Verizon Engineer.

History:

Verizon used to have a rechargeable Battery Back Up Unit. Recently, a new FCC Ruling stating that as of February 2019, all Battery Back Up units provided or sold by Telecommunications providers must last a minimum of 24 hours. The now phased out BBU provided, at an 8 amp draw down, approximately 8 hours of support time with 4 to 6 hours of support time the norm. Rechargeable Battery Backups that will last 24 hours tend to be large, heavy and expensive to manufacture. Utilizing prior customer feedback from the now phased out Verizon Rechargeable Battery Backup Unit, Verizon developed the current Battery Back Up. * Note: a newer version will be available in approximately 6 to 9 months. See more about this below.

Facts:

- The current BBU uses 12 D Cell batteries (EverReady or Duracell) that are included with the unit.
- These types of batteries have a 7 to 8 year shelf life when installed, without any use.
- The 12 batteries have a cumulative 34 to 35 hours life span when the BBU is activated by a Power Failure and not used for phone calls or to transmit an alarm. It is not clear how many 'battery hours' an alarm signal 'uses' as much of it depends on the type and duration of the alarm itself.
- During a power outage, dial tone is not available unless a Battery Back Up Unit is installed, in conjunction with the Verizon ONT Box, with functioning batteries. The primary purpose of the BBU is to allow an Alarm Panel to access dial tone to communicate with the Security Panel in the Hershey's Mill Security office if the Panic Buttons are needed or the Smoke Alarms go off. The primary purpose of the BBU is not to support casual conversation on the telephone while the power is out.
- **IMPORTANT:** The BBU does NOT provide power electrical outlets, so Wireless Phones do not work in a power failure. The base on Wireless Phones must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Dial Tone will only be evident on direct wired phones.

How the BBU works:

-The BBU plugs into the ONT Box. The BBU is left in the ON position. As long as there is Power to the ONT Box, the BBU remains on standby. At this point the ONT Box is drawing approximately 10.5 watts. During a Power Failure, the ONT Box goes into Power Reserve turning off the draw from Video and Internet and supporting only Dial Tone. During this time the ONT Box automatically reduces its draw down to approximately 4 to 5 watts.

-Currently, there is a Test Strip within the BBU that may be used to test the D Cell batteries, from time to time, to determine the remaining D Cell battery life. Each battery must be tested individually. There is no audible sound or light warning of declining battery life.

-The BBU is designed to be installed by a Verizon Account Holder. No disruption to the services occur if the BBU is installed while the ONT Box is in use. The BBU plugs directly into the ONT Box.

****New Improved Model:** will be available in approximately 6 to 9 months. The new model will have three LED lights and a Test Button to show how much battery life is remaining: full, middle or close to end of life. The BBU will look the same except for the LED lights. Pricing is not expected to change significantly.

Important: Verizon will Not install the current BBU model and then swap the current model out for the updated model at no cost. If a new model is desired it will be sold at the then posted price.