

Website of the Month

This month's website of the month is for Tactic transmitters, receivers, and servos. Several CVA members have purchased Tactic's 6 channel computer radio, including myself. Here is the link:

<http://www.tacticrc.com/>

Do you have a favorite website? If so, let me know and I will put it in the newsletter. Favorite online store, how to build, how to fly, etc- send me the link! My email address:

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Closing Thoughts on LiPo Battery Charging & Storage Dangers and Solutions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Klute for his very informative article on LiPo Battery Charging & Storage Dangers and Solutions that has been featured here for the last 2 issues of the newsletter. The information Steve presented really gives you something to think about.

I would like to share with the club what I have done in regards to LiPo batteries:

1. I went to Target and picked up one of those Fire Safe boxes by First Alert. The one I got is a little larger and it will hold all of my LiPo batteries. To help with venting, I removed the gasket that runs around the perimeter of the lid. I also have 2 charging bags, but I use them knowing that the protection they provide is limited.
2. The videos that Steve presented in his article got me thinking a little about **prevention**. To that end, I learned how to use the temperature probe that came with my charger. The theory, or perhaps I should say my hope, is that at least during the charging process, if anything is going wrong, the battery will get warm before catastrophic failure begins. If and when the battery gets warm, the temperature probe will shut off the charging process, and an alarm will alert me of the situation. On my charger, the temperature probe can be set at any temperature to stop the charging process. Once again, my hope is that ceasing the supply of "energy" to the battery will prevent a catastrophic failure from occurring.
3. Thinking further along the lines of prevention, what can cause a LiPo battery to burst in flames? One possibility is charging at a current greater than what the battery can handle. I stick with 1C personally, although I see some of my batteries allow 2C or 3C. I have caught myself on a few occasions setting my charger to the wrong current, so this is something I recommend double checking.

4. One somewhat obvious cause for a LiPo fire is from a damaged battery. If the battery enclosure is puffed out, then I'm going to be very concerned, to say the least. Further, I can imagine that a short in the battery's wiring harness may lead to undesirable results. Therefore, it may be good practice to inspect the battery leads and connectors every so often for damage or missing insulation.

5. It can't be stressed enough the importance of using a quality balance charger that is made to charge LiPo batteries. A balance charger has the capability to monitor the individual cell voltages of the LiPo pack. A balance charger will prevent any individual cell of the LiPo pack from being overcharged, which should reduce the possibility of catastrophic failure.

If anyone else has any thoughts on the subject, let me know. I can pass it along to the club in an upcoming training article.

See you at the field.

Alan Fry
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