



Department of the Interior Accident Prevention Bulletin

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Subject: SOLO UAS Battery Life

Area of Concern: Flight Safety

Distribution: All Fire and Aviation Activities

Discussion: Back in January, a Remote Pilot-in-Command (RPIC) conducted a test on a collection of original 3DR Solo batteries that had not been used in 27 months. Over 24 batteries were tested and all demonstrated stable and reliable performance down to 35%. At or below 30%, many of the batteries exhibited rapid and sometimes significant power reduction. In a few cases, the power dropped below 20% in a matter of seconds. All aircraft were landed safely (SAFECOM [#22-0091](#)).



This test highlighted a safety of flight issue when the batteries are approaching 35%. As a result, 3DR solo batteries should not be flown below that threshold and flights should plan to terminate prior to reaching the 35% limitation. Landing battery levels should also be recorded on field forms to document and ensure compliance with this revised safety practice.

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