

# Attention Fiber Customers!

## Backup Power Customer Notice



**Backup Power for Residential Voice Telephone Services during Power Outages:** For many years, your home 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 instead of a traditional copper based line, the residential voice telephone service requires backup battery power to continue functioning during an outage. To avoid disruption of home voice service during an outage – and to maintain the ability to connect to 9 1 1 emergency services – Brazos Communications provided you with a battery for the backup power to your residential 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 batteries for telephone equipment provided by Brazos Communications allow you to continue to use your home voice services during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup source such as a generator, customers with fiber will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 9 1 1. The only way to maintain the ability to use your phone is by using some form of backup power.

Our backup battery does not provide power to any services other than voice. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices and other equipment will not run on a home phone backup battery.

**Replacement Options:** As previously noted, a backup battery has been provided by Brazos Communications during the initial installation. However, the battery provided by Brazos Communications may need to be replaced every two to three years or when the battery is no longer functioning. If you are concerned about being able to connect to 9 1 1 emergency services during a power outage, a battery backup may be a good option for you.

- You can purchase a replacement battery directly through Brazos Communications. If you have any questions or simply want to purchase a backup battery through us, please call 1.800.687.3222 or visit our office. Our 8 hour backup batteries cost approximately \$31.50 plus tax and can be picked up at our office. If you do not feel comfortable installing your own battery, please call us to make an appointment, and we would be happy to assist you. However, please note that there may be a charge for this service.

- Third party provided backup batteries – You can also purchase a backup battery through many retailers such as Best Buy or on-line. Please contact our business office, and we will gladly provide you with the information you need about the type of equipment you have to ensure you purchase a battery model that is compatible.

**Expected Backup Power Duration:** Backup batteries are expected to last at least 8 hours on standby power. The backup battery should give you at least 6 hours of talk time. If you feel that is not enough time, you may extend your standby power by purchasing additional 8 hour batteries.

**Instructions for Proper Care and Use of Your Battery:** Please follow the more detailed instructions included with your battery for proper use, storage and care of your battery to ensure that it will function as needed during a power outage. If you do not store your battery correctly, it may shorten its useful life. Environmental factors such as temperature can shorten your battery's useful life. We recommend that you store your battery above 32°F and below 104°F. These batteries are not rechargeable. They will not last forever and should be replaced every 2 to 3 years, or when your device starts to make a loud beeping sound. That sound means that the battery is depleted, and must be replaced. See the instructions above for purchase and replacement options. You should also periodically, as described in the instructions included with your battery, remove and test your battery to verify both the operation of the backup battery and its condition.

**Battery Backup Replacement Options:** Brazos Communications Fiber customers have four options to choose from when the battery in the Battery Backup needs to be replaced, and is no longer in warranty. Brazos will honor the warranty for 2 years from the date of the actual fiber activation.

Options for replacement are as follows:

- 1.) A new replacement battery may be purchased from Brazos for \$31.50 + tax. If a technician is required to replace the backup battery, a \$30 service fee will apply.
- 2.) A compatible replacement battery may be purchased from a source outside of Brazos. Please refer to the Backup Unit User's Manual for specs on a compatible replacement battery.
- 3.) You may choose NOT to replace the battery. Simply silence the alarm on the battery backup unit pressing the "Alarm Silence" button. The battery backup will then act as a pass through for the power.
- 4.) A special adapter cord for the ONT (Optical Network Terminal) may be purchased. It will replace the original cord, and plug directly into a standard A/C outlet. (With this option, the battery backup can be unplugged and removed.) The cost of the cord is \$5.00 with self installation. If a technician is required to change out the cord, there will be a \$30 service fee, which includes the cost of the cord.

Note: The battery backup will only support dial tone for a WIRED telephone, and will last for up to approximately 8 hours. If there is a power outage, cordless telephones will not work unless the customer has a home generator. Battery backup does not support data (internet).

If a Brazos technician is required to assist with any of the above options, a \$30 service fee will be applied.

