

U.S. Cellular battery swap Company offers tips on keeping a charge

STAFF REPORT

Central Maine U.S. Cellular customers can visit any company store and change out a dead or dying battery for a fully-charged one, for free, a spokeswoman says.

Batteries often cost \$40. Only owners of U.S. Cellular phone models sold in the last 18 months are eligible for the program.

"Our Battery Swap program is perfect for people who depend on their wireless devices as their lifelines, such as business people, parents, not to mention heavy users who drain their battery daily," said Jay Ellison, executive vice president of U.S. Cellular.

"We're offering this service to help our customers stay connected."

U.S. Cellular offers these tips to help your phone maintain its battery strength:

Turn your cell phone off while charging; it not only will help extend the life of the battery, it also acts as a reset similar to your computer.

Power cycling, or turning the cell phone off and then on again, will allow your cell phone to use the optimum tower for its location and clears the cache of the phone.

If you get stuck on a screen or have problems texting, power cycling often helps.

If this option doesn't work for you, then it might be time to get a new battery.

U.S. Cellular will host a week of events designed to teach wireless phone safety June 1-7 at the company's Augusta retail store, 33 Stephen King Drive. For details, call 626-2900.

