Flashlight user notes on lessons learned

When using a flashlight with 1-3 cells, if the light goes dim or very low relatively quickly while using it, just gently tape it on the edge of a table to slightly move the cells within the case. If this caused it to brighten up, then there most probably was a bad connation at one of the cell or battery terminals. If this does not work then take the cells out and look for corrosion that will need cleaning off if found.

The effect is worse with one cell flashlights due the lower voltage and higher current when compared to the 2 and 3 cell flashlights. However, one cell flashlights have the advantage of being able to be discharged to a much lower voltage than is good practice for a multi-cell flashlight. In fact they can be discharged until the flashlight not longer gives off light.

If multi-cell rechargeable flashlights are discharged to too much they can reverse charge a weak cell and cause it to go bad. Thus plan on recharging muti-cell rechargeable flashlights when they start to go dim and no amount of tapping fixes it.

LED flashlights do not have a filament that can be broken so they can be dropped or tapped much harder than the older tungsten filament type.

The shorter wave length range of the LED UV flashlights can be used for spotting fungus, urine and bugs.

Purchase flashlights with some idea of the battery or cells you wish to standardize on for use in a primitive environment. Standardize on one or two sizes that you will be able to recharge when needed. For example AA and AAA NiMh low self discharge is an excellent choice.