



Dr. Peter Hauk measures the output and runtime of SureFire lights, using state-of-the-art equipment and scientific methodologies.

A WORD ABOUT MEASUREMENTS

If oil companies took the same approach to measuring gasoline as most flashlight manufacturers take measuring the outputs and runtimes of their products, you'd get 10 different sized gallons of gas from 10 different filling stations. In a perfect world, every flashlight from every manufacturer would be tested and measured exactly the same way, using the same equipment, and results would be expressed in the same units of measurement.

Unfortunately, the world is far from perfect. Still, SureFire has taken great pains to ensure that our measurements are as accurate and telling as possible. First off, we don't express output in candlepower measurements—we use lumens. Candlepower typically refers to the single brightest spot of a beam, which doesn't tell you much about beam quality or the amount of usable light. Consider a lake that's 10 feet deep everywhere except for one narrow cavern where it drops off to 600 feet. The candlepower-equivalent measurement of that lake would be 600 feet, even though the vast majority of the lake is only 10 feet deep. A lumen measurement, on the other hand, is a photometric quantity determined by measuring the total radiant energy across the light's spectrum and then correcting the data for the relative response of the human eye. It's a more complicated measurement, but it's also a more useful one. Using the same lake analogy, a lumen-equivalent measurement would tell you how much water was actually in the lake.

We measure our lights with state-of-the-art equipment, using standardized procedures developed by Dr. Peter Hauk, SureFire's principal scientist. We express outputs and runtimes as clearly as possible, stating them in terms of "Max Output" and "Runtime." Max Output is the maximum amount of light a flashlight will produce running on fresh batteries. Runtime is how long a flashlight will continue to produce useful levels of light, "useful" being enough light to illuminate a keyhole, read a map, or find something inside a pack—right around one lumen. So if a flashlight's Max Output is listed as 80 lumens and its Runtime is 12 hours, that doesn't mean it will produce 80 lumens of light for 12 hours. It will initially produce 80 lumens, but output will eventually level off to a lesser but still substantial amount and continue to decline as battery power depletes. Exactly how it drops is expressed in the light's output/runtime curve.

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SureFire wants you to know exactly what you're getting when you buy one of our products. And to be aware that there are other manufacturers out there not quite as forthright about their output/runtime claims. We've done our own independent testing on competitive products and found there to be substantial exaggerations. "Exaggerations" being the watered-down word our lawyers would prefer we use. If you want to know exactly what to expect from your flashlight, buy a SureFire. Otherwise, your guess is as good as ours.



When you buy SureFire, you know exactly what you're getting. No exaggerations or inflated measurements.

Output/runtime graph illustrates precisely how output diminishes with time as battery power is depleted.

