

What's the Risk?

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



THE ISSUE

Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used in many devices, including electric cars, bikes, scooters, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. While these batteries provide an effective and efficient source of power, they can overheat, catch on fire, and even lead to explosions. Lithium-ion battery fires are a growing public safety concern, and can cause serious injuries, deaths, and devastating damage to property.



WHAT'S THE RISK?

The risk of lithium-ion battery fires is significant, and can be caused by a variety of factors, including damaged or unstable batteries due to aging or design defects, improper charging, and storing more than five batteries in one place.

Lithium-ion battery fires are very dangerous and can spread quickly. Water may not prevent a battery from burning and spreading, and fire extinguishers do not work on these battery types. Reignition is also common, unexpectedly re-igniting in minutes, hours, or even days after all visible fire has been put out.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

There are several things that can be done to reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires, including:

- Store batteries in a cool, dry place, and avoid storing more than five batteries together
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging batteries, and avoid over or undercharging them
- Inspect batteries for signs of damage, such as bulging, cracking, hissing, or leaking
- Use chargers that are specifically designed for use with the battery
- Never charge the batteries from an e-bike or hover board while the unit is inside a house or an apartment – always charge it in a non-combustible area such as a garage or outdoors

