



Chambersburg Fire Department

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PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries provide a good source of clean power and they are being used in more devices every year. These types of batteries are found in smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-bikes, e-cigarettes, toys, and electric vehicles and are part of our everyday lives. In rare cases, the batteries fail, and this condition can quickly lead to a fire.

In the past two weeks, the Chambersburg Fire Department has responded to two fires involving lithium-ion batteries. In the first incident, an electric bike battery that was compromised due to damage had been tampered with instead of being properly disposed of. Due to the mishandling, the battery started to smoke and was taken outside where it self-ignited. The second incident occurred when a weed-trimmer battery overheated and caught fire while it was on the charger. This in return caused significant damage to a family's garage of their home.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.
- **According to OSHA there are approximately 5,000 fires each year caused by Lithium-ion batteries.**

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Lithium-ion batteries can quickly explode and fire can develop rapidly. **Call 9-1-1.**

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Properly monitor the batteries throughout the entire charge.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.
- Have working smoke detectors throughout your occupancy

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Citizens can help firefighters by staying alert with lithium-ion battery use and storage. The Chambersburg Fire Department is available to answer questions regarding fire safety. Visit our website at www.chambersburgfire.com for information about the department and fire safety or call (717)263-5872.

