

Lithium Ion Battery Safety

for Consumers



Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

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.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- 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.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice the problems.

- odor
- change in color
- too much heat
- change in shape
- leaking
- odd noises

If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

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.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

River Forest Fire Department
For more info call 708-714-3562

The River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you of the Dangers of Button Batteries

Tiny Batteries Pose Sizeable Risks

The number of serious injuries or deaths as a result of button batteries has increased nine-fold in the last decade.



Children want to explore. And young children have a tendency to put most of what they find laying around the house in their mouths.

Every parent knows this, but what parents don't always know are the hidden dangers lurking inside seemingly harmless items, such as remote control devices and keyless remote door openers for vehicles.

What's inside? Coin lithium batteries. You may know them as button batteries. These little silver-colored batteries power everything from toys and electronics to watches and musical greeting cards.

If swallowed or placed in the nose or ears, button batteries can cause serious injury or death, according to the National Capital Poison Center.

More than [3,500 people of all ages swallow button batteries every year](#) in the United States. Most pass through the body and are eliminated, but sometimes they get hung up in the esophagus. An electrical current can form in the body, and hydroxide, an alkaline chemical, can cause tissue burns that can be fatal.

Parents and caregivers are urged to keep products containing these batteries away from children. CPSC recommends the following steps to prevent unintentional battery ingestion:

- Do not allow children to play with or be in contact with coin cell batteries.
- Caution hearing aid users to keep hearing aids and batteries out of the reach of children.
- Never put batteries in your mouth for any reason because they are easily swallowed accidentally.

- Always check medications before ingesting them. Adults have swallowed button batteries mistaking them for pills or tablets.
- Keep remotes and other electronics out of your child's reach if the battery compartments do not have a screw to secure them. Use tape to help secure the battery compartment.
- If a button battery is ingested, seek medical attention immediately. The National Battery Ingestion and Poison Help Hotlines are available 24 hours a day.
- Discard button batteries carefully.

For more information contact the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562

###

Seat Belts.....Myth vs. The Real Deal

There are many myths surrounding seat belt safety. See if you can distinguish the myths from the real deal by correctly answering the questions below.

[If your car has air bags you still need to wear a seat belt. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

The Real Deal. The safest way to ride is buckled up in a vehicle equipped with airbags. Even without an airbag, you are safer buckled up than you are with an airbag and not buckled up.

[Seat belts can trap you in a fire or under water. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

Myth. Incidents involving fire or water account for ½ of 1 percent of all crashes. But more importantly, you can't escape such dangers unless you're conscious. Wearing a seat belt gives you a much greater chance of being conscious and able-bodied.

[If you're not going far or not traveling fast, seat belts are unnecessary. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

Myth. Seemingly routine trips can be deceptively dangerous. Most fatal crashes happen within 25 miles from home and at speeds of less than 40 mph.

[Your seat belt can't hurt you in a crash. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

Real Deal. In a crash, everything in your car can cause bodily harm, but your seat belt is one of the few things that can actually save you.

[You're safer in a pickup truck, so wearing a seat belt is unnecessary. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

Myth. For occupants in SUVs, pickups, and vans, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to the driver and front seat passenger by 60 percent.

[It's not as essential for guys to wear seat belts; they are the least at risk. Myth or Real Deal?](#)

Myth. Everyone is at risk if they do not wear seatbelts.

For more information please call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562

The River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you...

Don't Forget Your Precious Cargo in the Back Seat

On average, 37 kids die in hot cars every year in the United States,

Incidents peak between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when between two and three kids die each week. In 2016, more than twice as many children died in hot cars (39) than all individuals who died in tornadoes across the country (17).

In cases of heatstroke deaths, findings show:

- 87% of children who die are 3 years old or younger
- 54% are forgotten in a vehicle
- 28% are playing in an unattended vehicle
- 17% are intentionally left in a vehicle by an adult

In April 2017, a 1-year-old boy died after being left in a pickup truck. At that time, the temperature in Vestavia, AL, was just 68 degrees. What many don't know is cars and trucks heat up rapidly even on milder days and no matter the time of year.

The temperature inside a vehicle can rise by nearly 20 degrees in 10 minutes. Heatstroke occurs when a person's body temperature exceeds 104 degrees. At 107 degrees, cells are damaged and internal organs begin to shut down. This can lead to death.

Young children are at risk because their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's, according to a journal report from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

During the spring and summer, children increasingly are getting locked in cars and dying of heatstroke. Even in 70-degree weather, cars can reach life-threatening temperatures for children and pets in just minutes. Leaving a window open a crack will not help.

Always keep vehicles locked so children cannot get into the car alone. And, since most cases of heatstroke happen when a parent forgets a child in the back seat, put something you need back there with the child, such as a purse or laptop.



For more information call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

9-volt Battery Safety

For more info Call the
River Forest Fire
Prevention Bureau at
708-714-3562

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.



The problem

- » 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- » It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- » Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-volt batteries

- » Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- » Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- » Store batteries standing up.
- » 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer. Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

Disposal

- » 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- » 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- » To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- » Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

9-VOLT BATTERY STORAGE

Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education



Babysitting Safety

Having a babysitter can give you peace of mind. It allows you to leave your child with someone you trust. Be sure your babysitter knows about fire safety. Be sure your babysitter knows what to do if there is a fire.

Show the babysitter your home escape plan and make sure the babysitter understands:

- » two ways out of every room.
- » where the outdoor meeting place is located.
- » the fire department or emergency phone number.
- » how to unlock all doors and windows.

If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter:

- » keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- » keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the microwave oven.
- » never leaves the room while cooking.
- » keeps anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- » keeps pets off surfaces and countertops.

If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to:

- » get out of the home quickly with your child to safety.
- » use the second way out if smoke is in the way.
- » get low and go under the smoke to the exit if an escape must be made through smoke.

Store matches and lighters out of your child's reach. Candles should not be used by your babysitter.

Make sure your babysitter keeps a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around space heaters.

REMEMBER

Always leave the phone number where you can be reached. Cell phones make this easy. Be sure the babysitter knows the address of the home.



Babysitter Training

Many places offer babysitter classes. These are online and in the classroom. Some schools and hospitals give training. Classes teach how to care for children. They also teach first aid. They teach CPR. What to do in an emergency is also taught.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Safety Tips for Caregivers

Children and Fire

Children “playing” with or starting fires is dangerous and costly. Each year these fires cause hundreds of injuries, millions of dollars in damage, and are most likely to kill young children under the age of 5.

Some children play with fire out of curiosity, boredom, or peer pressure, not realizing its danger. But other children misuse fire because they are struggling with problems or emotions. Without proper intervention and instruction, children who misuse fire will very likely do it again. However, if punishment is the only intervention strategy used, it could actually contribute to the problem. What can you do?

Follow these tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- It is natural for young children to be curious and ask questions about fire, play with fire trucks, or pretend to cook. Use these opportunities to teach them about fire safety.
- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them. Tell them that this is why matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Teach young children to never touch matches or lighters. They must go tell a grown-up when matches or lighters are found.
- Establish clear rules and consequences about unsupervised and unauthorized uses of fire.
- Be a good example! Always use fire sources — matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, and campfires — in a safe manner. Never treat them as toys, or children may imitate you.
- Talk with children about what their friends or other children are doing with fire. What are they seeing online in video games, on TV, in movies, and on social media? Teach them specific ways to resist the peer pressure to misuse fire.
- Give praise for showing respect and age-appropriate responsible behavior toward fire.

Important!

Understand that children and fire are a **deadly combination**. If you suspect a child is unusually interested in fire or is setting fires, take immediate action. Follow these safety tips. Contact your local fire department, school, burn center, or counseling agency to get help from specially trained experts.

All children are at risk for using fire unsafely. Many fires happen simply because matches and lighters are left within a child’s reach.



For more info call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562