

# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries that are often used to power cellphones, tablets, power tools, E-bikes, electric vehicles, energy storage systems, and many other devices. Lithium-ion batteries are so prevalent today, that most individuals are likely to own at least one device powered by them. **Consider anything that moves and is not connected to a power cord may contain a lithium-ion battery.**

Since lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, they are volatile and more easily damaged than other batteries. Fires from these batteries run hot, emit toxic gasses, and can prove to be a challenge to extinguish. Fire departments across the country are warning of these dangers due to the serious threat to both life and property with the increase of their use in classrooms and households. In recent years, some ASCIP members experienced fires from improperly stored lithium-ion batteries. While these batteries can be safely used in classrooms and homes, there needs to be an increased safety awareness on the dangers of their use and disposal.

**When lithium-ion batteries are used in classrooms, battery safety should be incorporated into the lesson plan, so that students can be a part of the safety solution with this evolving risk.**

Please consider how your district handles, stores, and disposes of Lithium-ion batteries. All batteries can be hazardous and pose a safety risk, but this type requires awareness and special handling both within the educational setting and within the home. **Connect with your risk management or purchasing department for specific guidelines.**

Since lithium-ion batteries tend to be highly specialized for their specific use in a certain device, order batteries and/or chargers from the device manufacturer – and confirm that the batteries/chargers are ‘UL or CE” approved.



### SAFETY TIPS

- Purchase batteries that are listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Lab (NRTL)
- Know the manufacturer instructions and safety information for use, storage, charging and maintenance.
- Never overload your outlet when charging any device with a lithium-ion battery
- Never place the batteries in direct sunlight or a hot vehicle
- Store batteries in a cool, dry location.

### IF YOU HAVE A FIRE FROM A LITHIUM BATTERY

- Leave the area immediately as the batteries emit toxic gasses and burn extremely hot, with explosions occurring in seconds.
- Call 9-1-1
- **DO NOT** try to fight or extinguish the fire.

Source: "Lithium-Ion Batteries." Orange County Fire Authority, November 2022

Please contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at [RM\\_Info@ascip.org](mailto:RM_Info@ascip.org) for questions or to discuss further.

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