

Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

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Everyday in the United States, about every 88 seconds someone reports a house fire. Thirty-six percent (36%) of all house fires are caused by electrical problems, and most of these electrical problems are caused by Lithium-Ion batteries.

What is a Lithium-Ion Battery?

Lithium-Ion batteries are batteries that can recharge multiple times over long periods of time. Anything that can be charged, such as phones, tablets, watches, e-bikes, computers, and even some cars all have Lithium-Ion batteries in them. Lithium-Ion batteries are really useful, especially when you need to charge anything up really quickly and often. Lithium-Ion batteries are working their way up to being the most used battery. Currently, lead-acid batteries are more widely used due to cheaper raw materials and manufacturing costs.

The Dangers of Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-Ion batteries are really dangerous when you don't pay attention. Sometimes the chargers with Lithium-Ion batteries get really hot. Having the batteries get really hot like this can sometimes be really dangerous. It has a high risk of catching on fire if not properly ventilated or in the right location. Make sure to research and follow all of the safety guidelines for Lithium-Ion batteries.

How to Safely Use Lithium-Ion Batteries

When Lithium-Ion batteries get hot they have a higher risk of starting a fire or exploding. Always remember to remove your devices from the charger when they reach 100% and are done charging. Also, always use a charger made for the device or one that is approved by the manufacturer. Always make sure while you're charging your device, it doesn't get too hot. Also make sure to always charge your devices on a hard surface. Make sure to follow the safety guidelines listed by the National Fire Protection Association.

Tips on What To Do If a Fire Starts

1. Get out quickly, stay out, and call 9-1-1.
2. If closed doors or handles are hot to the touch, use an alternate way out.
3. Yell “fire” several times once outside.
4. Follow your family emergency communication plan.
5. For small fires, always have an extinguisher nearby.

If Your Clothing Catches on Fire

Stop what you are doing

Drop to the ground and cover your face if you can

Roll over and over or back and forth until the flames go out. Running will only make the fire burn faster.

In conclusion, Lithium-Ion-batteries are a useful tool when used correctly. Charging, when done properly, is fast and easy for multiple and different personal devices. If something goes wrong during the charging process and a fire begins, have a plan to move to safety. Just saying this once again, always be careful when using Lithium-Ion batteries!