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Lithium-Ion Battery Safety for Consumers

Lithium-ion batteries are becoming increasingly popular in consumer electronics, medical devices and multiple forms of personal transportation devices from skateboards to scooters to bicycles. Precautions should be taken in the proper use, storage and charging of these devices.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices manufactured by reputable companies
- Look for devices that have been tested by an independent nationally recognized testing laboratory to ensure safety and quality.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding use, charging and storage of the device.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device and approved by the manufacturer.
- Remove batteries from devices for long term storage.
- Avoid physically damaging lithium batteries.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device on a combustible surface (under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch).
- Do not charge or store devices/batteries in a high heat area (furnace/boiler rooms).
- Do not leave devices plugged in. Unplug devices after battery has reached full charge.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Keep batteries at room temperature and store them away from anything that can catch fire in a cool, dry location.
- Do not charge, store, or dispose of batteries in the exit way and stairs of a room or building.
- Do not charge batteries in temps below 32° F.

Signs of a Problem

- Stop using the battery if you notice these problems:
- Unusual odor
- Smoke while charging
- Odd noises (hissing, popping or bubbling)
- Leaking
- Change in color
- Device becomes too warm to the touch
- Deformity, expansion or change in shape

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.