

Link Title: Lithium-Ion Battery Safety & Awareness

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety & Awareness

Understanding Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use daily, from smartphones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and electric vehicles. While efficient, these batteries require proper handling to prevent fires, overheating, or other safety hazards. Baldwin County EMA and Baldwin County LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) is committed to keeping residents and visitors informed about lithium-ion battery safety.

Safe Use & Storage

Do:

1. Use the **manufacturer-recommended charger** to prevent overheating.
2. Store batteries in a **cool, dry place**—never in direct sunlight or near flammable materials.
3. Keep batteries **away from metal objects** (e.g., keys or coins) that could cause short-circuiting.

Avoid:

1. Overcharging devices or leaving them plugged in overnight.
 2. Using cheap or off-brand replacement batteries that may lack safety testing.
 3. Keeping damaged, swollen, or punctured batteries inside your home.
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Proper Battery Disposal

Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash! They can catch fire or leak harmful chemicals.

Where to Dispose of Lithium-Ion Batteries in Baldwin County:

- **Local Drop-Off Locations** – Find designated e-waste collection sites at:
 - Baldwin County Solid Waste Disposal Authority (<https://baldwincountyswda.org/>)

- Home improvement stores (e.g., Lowe's, Home Depot)

How to Prepare Batteries for Disposal:

1. Tape the terminals with electrical or duct tape to prevent short circuits.
 2. Place batteries in a non-metal container.
 3. Take them to an authorized recycling or disposal site.
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Fire Safety & Emergency Response

If a lithium-ion battery **overheats, swells, or catches fire**, follow these steps:

If your device starts overheating:

1. Unplug it immediately.
2. Move it to a fire-resistant surface away from flammable objects.

If a battery catches fire:

1. **Do NOT use water.** Lithium-ion battery fires require a Class D or lithium-ion fire extinguisher.
2. If safe, use sand or a dry powder extinguisher to suppress flames.
3. Call **911** immediately if the fire spreads.

Warning Signs of Battery Failure:

- Unusual **swelling or bulging** of the battery.
 - **Excessive heat** even when not in use.
 - A strange **smell** or **smoke** coming from the device.
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Traveling with Lithium-Ion Batteries

Air Travel:

- Keep spare batteries in **carry-on luggage**, not checked baggage.
- Tape battery terminals and store them in separate plastic bags.
- Follow TSA guidelines on **battery watt-hour limits** (100Wh for most carry-on batteries).

Road Trips & Boating:

- **Never leave batteries in a hot car**—heat can cause thermal runaway.
 - Store batteries in a well-ventilated area and away from flammable liquids.
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Additional Resources

- ◆ **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):** [Lithium-Ion Battery Safety](#)
- ◆ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** [Battery Recycling & Disposal](#)
- ◆ **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):** [E-Bikes, E-Scooters, & Hoverboards](#)

Need Assistance? Contact Baldwin County EMA at **(251)972-6807**