

Lithium-Ion Batteries Safety Guide

Navigating lithium-ion hazards in the workplace



WHAT?

Lithium-ion battery explosions are now the third leading cause of fires in New York City after smoking and open flames, according to the FDNY.

Lithium-ion batteries can pose safety risks due to their chemical composition and potential for thermal runaway, which can lead to fires or explosions.

HOW?

Lithium-ion batteries contain reactive materials such as lithium metal and electrolytes, which can contribute to the intensity and persistence of the fire.

Even if the visible flames are extinguished, there is a risk of the fire re-igniting if the battery cells continue to produce heat and release flammable gasses.

WHAT TO DO?

- Immediately evacuate the area if a fire starts with a lithium-ion battery.
- Do not attempt to extinguish the fire yourself. Instead, alert others and evacuate the premises.
- Contact Emergency Services: Call 911 to report the fire, mention the presence of lithium-ion batteries.
- If your building has rules against the use of lithium-ion batteries, please report any usage to building management immediately.

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