



Clearview Emergency Hub & Fire Administration Centre
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

CLEARVIEW, ON August 20, 2024 – The Number of fires involving Lithium-Ion batteries is steadily increasing in Ontario. Clearview Fire and Emergency Services are asking you to educate yourself and take necessary precautions with Lithium-Ion Batteries and Devices.

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, also called li-on batteries, are common in rechargeable products and generally safe to use. However, they have the same safety risks as other types of batteries, including **overheating, fires and explosions**.

Since they are more volatile, they're more easily damaged than other batteries and can become hazardous in certain conditions. Lithium-ion batteries are found in many electronic devices, such as:

- toys
- power tools
- baby monitors
- portable power banks
- personal electronics, such as:
 - tablets
 - laptops
 - cell phones
 - smartwatches
- vaping products (e-cigarettes)
- e-mobility products such as e-scooters, e-bikes and mobility aids

Safety Tips

Follow these tips to help minimize the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries:

Use and Storage

Handle lithium-ion batteries carefully. **Do not** throw, modify or tamper with them. Check for signs of damage, and **don't** use batteries that show the following signs:

- are swollen, dented or leaking
- have torn wrappers
- show other signs of damage, change in colour or produce an odour

Keep your batteries in a safe place, out of sight and reach from children. If you carry batteries with you, keep them in a protective, non-metal case.

Keep batteries stored in a **dry** location at room temperature. **Do not:**

- leave batteries out in the sun or in a hot or cold car
- let moisture form on either end of the battery's terminals

Charging

Do not charge your battery for longer than the recommended charging time. Overcharging can cause your battery to overheat, which can lead to fires or explosions.

Charge your device at room temperature where you can see it. Soft surfaces, like a couch or bed, can trap heat around the battery and cause the device to overheat.

Charge your battery **before** it drops below 30% to help it last longer and work safely. **Do not** keep it plugged in and charged at 100% for long periods.

Unlike older types of batteries, you do not need to fully discharge lithium-ion batteries. This may actually harm them. **Charge your product away from exit doors in case of fire.**

Original and Replacement Chargers

Use the charger that came with your device. If you need to replace your charger, buy it from a trusted source and make sure the voltage and current are compatible with your device. Contact the original product manufacturer if you need a replacement charger for higher voltage items like e-bikes, remote control cars and power tools.

Only use chargers that have one of the recognized **Canadian certification marks**, such as CSA, cUL or cETL.

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For more information, please contact:

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