



Los Angeles County Fire Department



Managing Risks from Damaged Lithium Batteries, Storage Systems, and Electric Vehicles at Your Home

Lithium batteries, lithium battery storage systems, and electric vehicles (EVs) are common in many households today. If any of these items have been damaged or destroyed by a fire, they could pose a risk or be a safety hazard.

WHAT HAZARD SHOULD I WATCH FOR?

- Lithium-ion batteries can be dangerous in homes that have experienced a fire or high heat.
- Even after a fire is out, damaged lithium-ion batteries can reignite, explode, or release toxic gases.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

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|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| • Electric/hybrid vehicles | • Home alarms | • Power tool batteries | • Cell phones |
| • Electric bikes, scooters, hoverboards | • Power banks or stations | • Drones | • Laptops |
| • Wheelchairs | • Home energy storage systems | • Game controllers | • Tablets |
| • Personal mobility device | | • Digital cameras | • Calculators |
| | | • Headphones | • Vaping devices |



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DAMAGED LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

- If you hear a popping, hissing noise, or see smoke or fire with a battery:
 1. Do not try to put out the fire or cover the battery.
 2. Leave the area immediately.
 3. Move at least 330 feet (the length of a football field), upwind, and call 911.
- Do not touch fire-damaged products with lithium-ion batteries – they could catch fire.
- Do not start, move, tow, or charge a fire-damaged electric/hybrid vehicle (EV). Damaged and destroyed vehicles will be inspected by hazardous material experts during Phase 1 of wildfire debris cleanup and recovery operations.
- Do not use or start a fire-damaged energy storage system or house battery. Damaged and destroyed energy storage systems will be assessed during Phase 1 of cleanup.
- Air out small, enclosed spaces, like a garage, shed, basement, or closet, before entering if they contain damaged lithium-ion battery products. These batteries can release toxic, explosive gases that may build up in these areas.

QUESTIONS / RESOURCES

Los Angeles County Fire Department - Health HazMat Division: (323) 890-4045.

Los Angeles County: [LA County Recovers](#)

Lithium-ion battery safety: <https://go.cdph.ca.gov/batterysafety>

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