



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024

City of San Diego Encourages Safe Use of Lithium-Ion Batteries

FIRE-RESCUE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS SHARE LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFE PRACTICES

SAN DIEGO – In an effort to educate San Diegans on the safe use, storage and proper disposal of lithium-ion batteries, San Diego Fire-Rescue (SDFD) and Environmental Services departments (ESD) representatives will be available for media interviews on Friday, Dec. 13 at Fire Station 45 in Mission Valley.

Lithium-ion batteries power a vast number of products used by the public. There has been an increase in the number of fires caused by these batteries in recent years. Many fires are caused by improper storage, overcharging and damaged batteries. There are many precautions people can take when using lithium-ion batteries, including always following the manufacturer's recommendations.

"Our goal is to educate people on the actions they can take to prevent lithium-ion battery fires," said Fire-Rescue Department HAZMAT Battalion Chief Robert Rezende. "These fires burn hotter and faster than typical home fires so it's also important to know what to do to prevent injuries."

All types of batteries are considered hazardous waste in California. Proper disposal of batteries is key to preventing fires, which can cause injuries to firefighters and members of the public. ESD provides information at sandiego.gov/hazwaste about recycling events and appointments to recycle hazardous products at the City of San Diego's Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility.

"Batteries and other types of hazardous waste must be handled properly and are not to be disposed of at the solid waste landfill," said Environmental Services Department Deputy Director Jim Hay. "To help residents safely dispose of batteries that are at the end of their useful life, the City offers several collection events throughout the year. Residents can also make an appointment, using the Get It Done app, to dispose of batteries at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Station."

WHAT: Media availability

WHO: Battalion Chief Robert Rezende, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Jim Hay, Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department
Representatives from several fire agencies in San Diego County

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, 8-11 a.m.

WHERE: Fire-Rescue Department HAZMAT Station 45
9366 Friars Road
San Diego, CA 92108

VISUALS: Lithium-ion batteries
SDFD PSA regarding li-ion battery safety:
sandiego.gov/fire/safety/lithium-ion-battery-safety

Example of an e-bike battery explosion in a residential living room:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-64881631>

Example of an intentional overcharge to an e-scooter from the Fire Safety Research Institute: <https://vimeo.com/768559847/589a05cc67>

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