

# LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY SHEET

*General Residential Guidance*

*prepared by the Venice Fire Department*



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## HAZARD SUMMARY

- Lithium batteries contain **flammable electrolyte** and may enter **thermal runaway** if damaged, overcharged, exposed to heat, or improperly stored.
- Fire may produce **intense heat**, **flammable vapors**, and **toxic fumes**.
- Damaged batteries may leak corrosive electrolyte that can irritate skin, eyes, and respiratory tract.

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## ACCIDENTAL RELEASE / LEAK

- Evacuate the immediate area if smoke, popping, hissing, or unusual odor is detected.
- Do **not** handle a swollen, smoking, or burning battery.
- For leaking battery fluids: avoid contact; wear gloves and eye protection; ventilate area.
- Place damaged batteries in a noncombustible container and contact proper disposal services.

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## HANDLING

- Use only **UL-certified** batteries and UL-listed charging equipment to ensure compliance with recognized safety standards.
- Use only manufacturer approved chargers and charging cables.
- Do not puncture, crush, disassemble, or expose batteries to water or extreme heat.
- Keep batteries away from children, pets, metal objects, and sources of ignition.

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## RESIDENTIAL INSTALL & OPERATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

- Charge batteries on a **noncombustible surface** in a **well ventilated area**.
- Keep the charging area **free of combustibles** and maintain clear space around chargers.

- Install a **smoke detector** near the charging/storage area.
  - Avoid charging **unattended** unless device manufacturer explicitly permits it.
  - Store batteries in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight and heat sources.
  - Keep spare or loose batteries in protective cases to prevent short circuits.
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## EMERGENCY ACTIONS

- **If battery smokes, swells, or overheats: Stop using it immediately. Move people away from the area.**
- **If fire occurs: Evacuate and call 911. Do not attempt to move a burning battery.**
- **Electrolyte contact:** Rinse skin or eyes with water for 15+ minutes and seek medical attention.

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