

POST-HURRICANE: LITHIUM-ION BATTERY DANGERS AND PREVENTION

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many personal electronics such as laptops, tablets, cell phones, electric toothbrushes, tools, hoverboards, scooters, vaping devices, solar power backup storage, electric vehicles, hybrid-electric vehicles, and power walls. If not used correctly, damaged, or have been wet, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.



If you think your Lithium-ion battery powered device has been submerged or damaged during recent storms, follow these safety guidelines:

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- ✓ **Look & Listen First:** If you see smoke, gasses, hear popping or hissing sounds, move to a safe distance. If you see fire call 911 immediately.
- ✓ **Wear Protective Gear:** Avoid direct contact with the battery if it has been submerged or appears damaged. Water and battery components can create hazards. If handling the battery is unavoidable, wear protective gloves and goggles to protect yourself from potential leaks or short circuits.
- ✓ **Isolate Battery:** If safe to do so, move the battery to a dry, well-ventilated area, away from anything flammable. If the vehicle/Lithium-ion battery is indoors and can be moved, take it outside. If it cannot be moved, keep the storage area open and vented.
- ✓ **Avoid Charging:** Never attempt to charge a Lithium-ion battery that has been submerged in water or shows signs of damage. This can lead to fire or explosion risks.
- ✓ **Do Not Repair:** Do not attempt to open or repair a submerged or damaged battery.
- ✓ **Consult With Manufacturer:** For electric vehicles and hybrid-electric vehicles contact the manufacturer, owner's manual, or a certified professional for recommendations for safe handling of their products and disposal.
- ✓ **Follow Local Guidelines:** Stay informed about any local advisories or regulations regarding battery safety and disposal following the hurricane. Lithium-ion batteries should be recycled or disposed of according to local regulations to prevent environmental hazards. Do not throw them in regular trash.
- ✓ **Educate Others:** Share information with your community about the dangers of damaged Lithium-ion batteries and the importance of proper handling.



For information about recycling Lithium-Ion batteries, scan the QR code or visit:
<https://MyFloridaCFO.com/docs-sf/state-fire-marshal-libraries/sfm-documents/crr/post-hurricane-lithium-ion-battery-recycling.pdf>

For information about towing and recovery operators, and vehicle storage facilities scan the QR code or visit:
https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/811576-interimguidehev-hv-batt_towing-recovery-storage-v2.pdf

