



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium Ion batteries supply power to many different types of devices including laptops, scooters, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

## WHY THE CONCERN



- Lithium Ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes these batteries are not used as they were intended which can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

**Stop using the battery if you notice these problems:**

- odor
- change in color
- too much heat
- change in shape
- leaking
- odd noises

If it's safe to do so, move it away from anything that can catch fire.

Call 9-1-1

## SAFETY TIPS

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge your device under your pillow, on your bed, or on the couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or in a hot car.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.



## BATTERY DISPOSAL

- Do not put Lithium Ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

**For more information:**

Fire Prevention Office  
1020 N. Hudson St.,  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-228-4644  
<https://fire.arlingtonva.us>