



Batteries: What to do in the Case of Unsafe Batteries

Safe Disposal

- Spent battery terminals must be taped.
- Do not mix lithium-ion batteries and other types of batteries.
- Keep batteries away from combustible materials and heat sources.
- Check local laws for guidance on proper disposal.

Risks

- Button or Coin batteries, when ingested, can cause serious burns to tissue.
- Damage, electrical abuse, exposure to freezing or elevated temperatures and exposure to conductive surfaces can cause batteries to short circuit, overheat, smoke, expand (causing damage to the battery and associated product), burn, and explode.
- Thermal runaway can result in smoke, a steady burn, a fireball, or ultimately an explosion.

If Smoking, Overheating, Bulging, or on Fire

1. Immediately disconnect the batteries if, during operation or charging, they emit an unusual smell, develop heat, change shape/geometry, or behave abnormally.
2. If a battery is venting or smoking, evacuate from the area.
3. If a battery is leaking, do not touch it.
4. Unplug any chargers and move item to a nonflammable surface.
5. If possible, remove battery and move battery away from flammable materials.
6. Follow manufacturer's guidance on how to extinguish small battery fires, which could include using ABC dry chemical extinguishers, Class D fire extinguishers (for lithium-metal), dirt, or sand.
7. Call for help.