



Safety alert

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Lithium-ion Battery - Safety and Storage

Contact Energy aims to raise awareness among the construction workforce about fire, explosion, and consequential loss risks linked to lithium ion batteries on construction sites.

Hazard Overview

- Lithium-ion batteries are used in tools, equipment and vehicles. If damaged, incorrectly stored, or poorly charged, these batteries can overheat (thermal runaway) leading to fire, explosion, and serious injury or fatality.
- Lithium-ion battery failure can release hazardous gases which may accumulate in containers, site sheds, cabins, offices, storage cupboards.
- Fire incidents involving these batteries frequently lead to; loss of production, damage to plant, equipment and material contamination, insurance claim challenges or exclusions.

Storage Controls

- **STORE** only in designated, approved battery storage locations/cabinets. Areas must be non-combustible, ventilated, cool and clearly labelled.
- **DO NOT** store or use batteries that are damaged e.g swollen, leaking, cracked, dented, overheating, crushed, or physically damaged in any way.
- **SEPARATE FROM** flammable liquids, gas cylinders, timber stacks, waste materials.
- **KEEP AWAY FROM** heat sources, sparks, flames, and direct sunlight.

Charging Requirements

- Only charge batteries in a designated approved charging area using the correct chargers.
- Charge during attended hours where possible.
- Disconnect when fully charged.
- Stop charging immediately if a battery becomes hot, smells, or shows damage.

Fire and Emergency Controls

If a battery becomes excessively hot, starts smoking, hissing or burning; workers must

1. Stop work
2. Isolate the area
3. Evacuate
4. CALL 111
5. Do not re-enter the area

Fires may re-ignite hours after appearing extinguished



Protecting the important stuff

Protect@Contact

