



New Paltz

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Lithium-Ion Battery Information and Emergency Procedures

Lithium-Ion batteries are in many consumer devices today due to their small size, power output and versatility. However, in a small number of cases, Lithium-Ion batteries may become reactive with their environment and start a fire.

The NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control created an informational bulletin for Lithium-Ion users which details general information, charging information and fire prevention activities.

Campus-specific procedures are as follows:

SUNY New Paltz Lithium-Ion Battery Emergency Procedures

Leaking Battery

Leaking batteries may contribute to inhalation hazards and cause physical harm to one's skin. Be careful not to get liquids on your skin. If skin or eye exposure occurs, drench the area for 15 minutes with water. Seek medical attention.

One should wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) when handling.

Consult EHS (Environmental, Health, and Safety) at 257-3310 for further instructions.

Note: a leaking battery may result in a reacting battery.

Reacting Battery

Signs that a battery is reacting (with air or water) are swelling or bulging of the battery, hissing noises, popping sounds, overheating and smoke evolution. One or more of these characteristics may be present.

If it is safe to do so, using some type of insulation between you and the battery (e.g., potholder), immediately move battery away from flammable and combustible areas (wood, cloth, plastic) to a surface that will not burn easily like vinyl floor tile, terrazzo floor, a cooking pot and allow it to react fully. If possible, move the battery outdoors.

Consult EHS at 257-3310 for further instructions.

Note: a reacting battery could lead to a fire.

Fire

If a fire is observed, call 911 and evacuate the building by pulling the fire alarm.

If trained in the use of a fire extinguisher, one may attempt to extinguish the fire after calling 911. Lithium fires may reignite after extinguishing them. Call 911!

All fires must be reported to EHS, even if extinguished.