



LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

or Li batteries, are one of the most common types of batteries used today. They are found in cellphones, laptop computers, electric cars, and personal transportation devices, including e-Bikes and e-Scooters. Introduced in 1991, there are two types of Li batteries, primary and secondary. Primary batteries are a non-rechargeable battery that use a metallic lithium, which is extremely reactive, especially with water and will combust when it reaches temperatures above 350 F. Secondary Li batteries are a rechargeable battery that uses a mixture of Lithium ions and conductive material. With the rise of fires related to lithium-ion batteries, please read the following information to interact with this type of battery more safely.

HAZARDS OF LITHIUM BATTERIES

- Lithium is highly reactive!
 - High pressure, heat, and water damage can cause explosions
- Damage to the battery can cause short circuiting, resulting in energy release.
 - Energy released can cause nearby batteries to explode in a reaction called thermal runaway
- Byproducts can be released which can cause other damage
 - These include Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen gas and Hydrocarbons which are also combustible.

WHAT TO DO!

- Due to many factors, including the risk of fire, [UO policy](#) prohibits the storage and charging of e-Bikes and e-Scooters outside of the two approved areas, located at the Millrace Parking Garage and the west side of the Erb Memorial Union.
- In the event of a fire, evacuate immediately and call **911** and **UOPD** at (541)346-2919. Only use a fire extinguisher if trained and willing.
- All lithium batteries are considered universal waste, so they cannot be disposed of in the trash.
 - Bring all non-alkaline batteries to the EHS office at 072 Onyx Bridge for disposal
 - If the battery is puffed, then bring it to EHS in a secondary container.
- Do not leave charging lithium-ion batteries unattended!
- If a battery has burst, evacuate the area and call **911**. Once out of the area, call **UOPD Dispatch** at (541) 346-2919, who will alert the EHS manager on duty to assist.



The photo above shows the remains of a Li-battery powered skateboard that was left unattended while charging in a university building.



Non-alkaline batteries cannot be disposed of in the trash! Bring them to EHS for disposal.

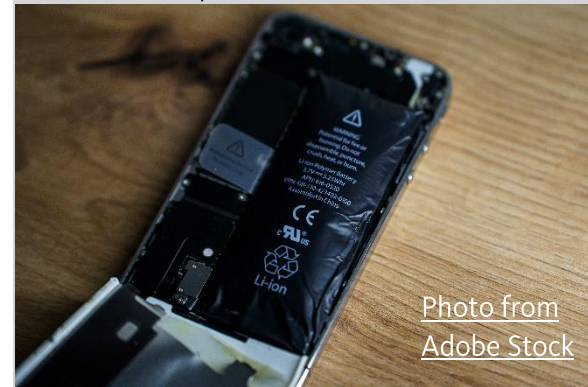


Photo from Adobe Stock

Li batteries are found in many items including cellphones, laptops, and electric cars!

