TOOLBOX TALK

LITHIUM

BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium batteries are generally safe — but only when used, stored, and charged correctly. These batteries are found in many of the devices we use daily, from power tools and phones to radios and laptops. However, because they store a high amount of energy in a small space, any damage, misuse, or manufacturing defect can cause them to become unstable.

1. What are three warning signs that a lithium battery may be damaged or failing?

2. Why is it dangerous to charge a lithium battery below freezing temperatures?

3. What type of fire extinguisher should you use if a lithium battery catches fire?

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HAZARDS TO WATCH FOR:

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

Dropping, crushing, or puncturing batteries can cause failure.

HEAT

High temps (above 38°C / 100°F) or charging below freezing (0°C / 32°F) increases risk.

IMPROPER CHARGING

Using the wrong charger or not following instructions can damage the battery.

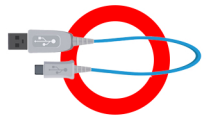
THERMAL RUNAWAY

Heat from one cell failure can spread and cause fire or explosion.

WARNING SIGNS

Bulging or cracked batteries

Hissing, leaking, or smoking



Unusual heat while charging or in use

SAFE PRACTICES

- Use certified batteries and chargers
- Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Remove devices from the charger once full
- Store in a cool, dry place — not in direct sun or near flammables
- Inspect batteries before use
- Dispose of damaged batteries properly

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

1. **Stop using it immediately**
2. **Move it away from flammable materials**
3. **Evacuate the area if necessary**
4. **Use the correct fire extinguisher** — CO_2, dry chemical (ABC), or Class D (for lithium-metal)
5. **Do NOT use water** — especially on lithium-metal fires.
6. **Report the incident** — to your supervisor and follow site emergency protocols

TOOLBOX TALK

PROJECT NAME:

DATE:

SITE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR / PRESENTER NAME:

This form should be used by site supervisors, foremen, or managers during site toolbox talks, meetings, and training sessions.

All attendees should sign the register to confirm their attendance.

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REGISTER

NAME AND SURNAME:	COMPANY:	SIGNATURE: