PARK LODGE INTERNATIONAL LTD

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES
FIRE SAFETY INFO GUIDE

The lithium-ion battery is here to stay and improves our day to day lives, but they do bring some risks should they go wrong, be misused or get damaged – **be prepared.**

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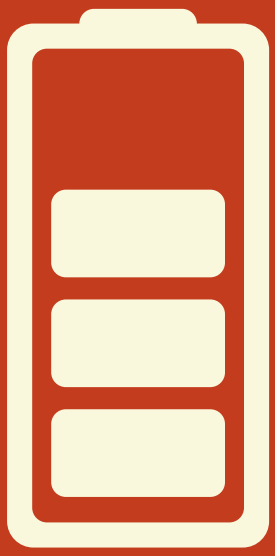

WARNING SIGNS

⚠ **Phone or battery starts to swell**

⚠ **Popping noises**

⚠ **Vapour, usually white/grey, being given off**

⚠ **Larger batteries, e.g. in vehicles, like golf buggies, may make a popping noise and start to give off a vapour**

ACTIONS

- If safe **switch off** electricity supply (if it is on charge).
- Raise the **alarm** (shouting is good).
- **Leave** the room or area and close doors.
- **Exit building**, avoid vapour, get somewhere safe and **call 999/112** for the Fire Service. Tell them what is happening.
- **What3Words:** an app on any smart phone giving an accurate location and is used by all the emergency services in Scotland.
- If you are hard of hearing or have poor mobile coverage, **consider registering your phone to the 999 system.**

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SMALL DEVICES

such as phones, tablets, watches, power banks

- **Always charge on a hard surface** - never on a bed or covered surface.
- **Use the supplied plug and cable or trusted replacements**, avoid 'cheap' versions.
- **Beware if you drop an item**, the battery might have become damaged, so just monitor it for a while, similarly if a battery becomes wet.
- If you use 'power banks' make sure they are a **reputable brand and treat with respect**. Charge on hard surface and in waking hours.
- Most smart phones can be set to have a slow charge overnight, it is a good idea and reduces the heat built up in the battery. **Fast charging = heat,** so it is best to avoid, it also reduces battery life.
- **Watch for cable damage.**

TOOLS, VACUUM CLEANERS, LAWNMOWERS ETC

appliances with smaller rechargeable batteries

- **Buy reputable makes** and check them for any damage.
- Buy only **good quality (trusted) brands** of replacement batteries.
- It is best to **charge the batteries in waking hours** and if possible, away from the house.
- **Never charge in a hallway/staircase enclosure/corridor** that would block the exit from the premises if there was a problem. That includes a room on an escape route, make sure they are not on charge between you and the exit.
- **Consider using charging boxes or charging in a separate building** (linked smoke detection is a good idea).

VEHICLES

Electric Vehicle charging is growing - both within personal, public and business spaces. Having an informed understanding of how to safely do this is vital now more than ever.

- Parking should **never obstruct a fire exit** from a building
- **Charging Points:**
  - **The location needs careful planning** so that if a thermal event should happen, your building or surrounding buildings are not affected. Avoid using charging points adjacent to a building.
  - CCTV helps to **maintain awareness** of the car parking and charging, but does need to be monitored. Some cameras today will alarm on smoke and fire detection.
  - **Spaces between electric vehicles whilst charging should be greater than when parking normally**. Use spacing similar to parent/child or disabled parking at supermarkets.
  - **Charging inside a building requires additional control measures and often best to avoid.**
  - **Have a remote isolation point** available at a safe distance from the charger and vehicles.
- The fire separation for parking with electric vehicles is recommended to be **120 minutes fire resistance.**

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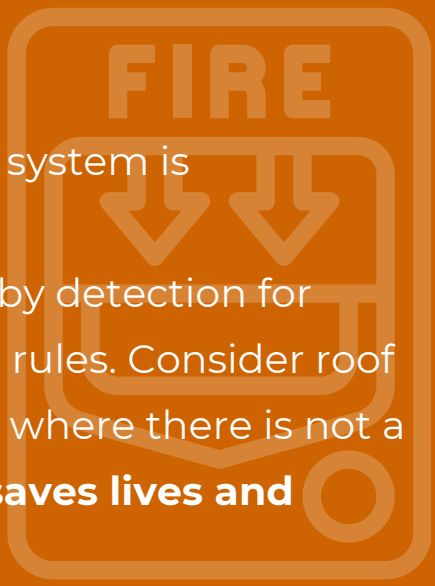
DETECTION



⚠ Linked detection works as long as the system is **maintained and tested**.

⚠ It is better to have a building covered by detection for **safety** rather than just to comply with rules. Consider roof spaces, bedrooms and storage rooms, where there is not a requirement by law. **Early detection saves lives and properties.**

GENERAL ADVICE

- **Good staff fire safety training** really is an asset to any organisation.
- Pro-active **fire safety and prevention** improves the outcome if an incident should occur.
- **Keep an eye open for recalls and act on them.**

STAY SAFE.

For more information see
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