

TAILGATE SAFETY

**SAFETY
FIRST**

The FGI believes it is important to always put safety first.

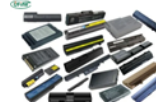
Our **Tailgate Safety Program** is a safety training resource for

construction and other high hazard industries. Print out and conduct training right from your tailgate on the job site, or in a formal meeting at your office.

Safety training for the job site & the office!

Lithium Ion Batteries - 6/1/2025 - Annette DeHavilland of Ohio EPA

Lithium Ion Batteries are everywhere – in the office, at home, in the field, and in the factory. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. They pack a lot of power in a small device, but they can experience thermal runaway.



Thermal runaway is triggered by overcharging, mechanical damage, or high operating temperatures. All of which can lead to failure of the separator, resulting in an internal short circuit, initiating overheating. When thermal runaway occurs, heat is generated and gases are released. These gases increase the pressure inside the battery and, in turn, cause the battery casing to rupture. If the gases ignite, a fire or explosion can result, often generating toxic smoke.



General:

- Keep battery or device at room temperature
- Store battery or device away from anything that can catch fire
- Do not smash, puncture, or cut the battery or device
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash; recycling is always the best option

Charging:

- Only use the charging cord that came with the device
- Do not charge a battery under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch
- Do not keep charging the battery after it is fully charged
- Do not charge the battery at temperatures below 32°F or above 105°F

Thermal Runaway:

- Stop using the battery if you notice: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape (swelling), leaking, odd noises (hissing)
- If a lithium-ion battery is experiencing thermal runaway, it cannot be stopped. Evacuate the area. Do not use water to extinguish the fire; water reacts with lithium, exacerbating the situation. To smother flames, use a Class D fire extinguisher or sand. Ventilate the area and contact emergency services. Once the battery has cooled, it can be taken to a recycling facility.



Safety tips are presented monthly by FGI members & industry experts

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