As the technology improves and the costs come down, lithium-ion batteries are in more and more products. Here are few examples:

Smartphones
Laptops
Tablets
E-readers
Digital Cameras
Action Cameras
Wearable Fitness Trackers
Smartwatches
Wireless Headphones
Bluetooth Speakers
Portable Power Banks
Electric Toothbrushes
Cordless Drills
Leaf Blowers
Electric Lawn Mowers
Robotic Vacuum Cleaners
Electric Scooters
E-bikes
Hoverboards
Electric Skateboards
Drones
Handheld Gaming Consoles
VR Headsets
Smart Home Devices
Electric Shavers
GPS Navigators
Medical Devices
Flashlights
Remote Controls
Security Cameras
Smoke Detectors
Emergency Radios
Solar Lights
LED Lanterns
Children's Toys
Portable Projectors
Electric Kettles
Hair Dryers
Cordless Blenders
Vaping Devices
E-cigarette Cartridge Refills
Bluetooth Trackers
Mini Fans
Portable Heaters
LED Candles
Electronic Key Fobs
Smart Locks
Breathalyzers
Musical Instruments

LARM
1335 L Street
Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-840-2069
E-mail: john.hobbs@larmpool.org

LARM
LEAGUE ASSOCIATION of RISK MANAGEMENT

Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling

Why is it important and what can you do to help?

Lithium-Ion Battery Risks

They are in the devices that we use every day: phones, tools, toys, even larger items like hoverboards, leaf blowers and e-bikes. Truly amazing in their ability to deliver electricity without a cord, lithium-ion batteries can pose a safety hazard, especially when damaged or improperly disposed of.

Thermal Runaway: This is a catastrophic failure where the battery can overheat, leading to fires or explosions. The risk increases if the battery is damaged, overcharged, or exposed to extreme temperatures.

Chemical Hazards: Lithium-ion batteries contain toxic materials like cobalt, nickel, and sometimes lithium itself, which can be harmful if they leak into the environment.

Fire Risks: The potential for fire is not just limited to the device itself; it extends to waste management systems. When batteries are crushed or punctured in waste processing, they can ignite, causing significant fires in recycling facilities and garbage trucks.

What Can You Do?

The most effective way to reduce lithium-ion fire risk is to properly recycle lithium batteries and devices with non-removable batteries. Statistics vary by battery and device type, but it is believed that over 75% of lithium batteries end up in landfills. These batteries leak toxic chemicals, and can cause fires in landfills, sanitation trucks, and facilities.

Recycling recovers valuable materials like lithium, cobalt, and nickel, reducing the need for mining. It cuts greenhouse gas emissions and prevents soil/water pollution. Recycling also creates jobs and supports a circular economy.

When you recycle, batteries are collected, dismantled, and materials are extracted for reuse in new products. Up to 95% of a lithium battery can be recycled!

WHERE TO RECYCLE

- **Check with your garbage service, transfer station, or landfill to see if they accept lithium batteries and devices.**
- **Contact your city government to see if they have a lithium battery collection location or special collection days.**
- **Several major retailers like Home Depot, Lowes, Staples, Best Buy, and Office Depot accept lithium batteries and devices for recycling.**
- **Some big box retailers and farm supply stores will accept batteries from products that were sold there. Contact them directly for more information.**
- **Go to www.call2recycle.org, a site that may provide additional locations for recycling.**
- **Websites including www.call2recycle.org, www.cirbasolutions.com, and www.batteryrecyclersofamerica.com offer recycling kits for purchase. These kits come with prepaid shipping so they can be returned once full.**