



Lithium-Based Battery Safety

FIRE SAFETY IN HOTELS

BEST PRACTICES, GUIDANCE, and PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Fire incidents involving lithium-based batteries present a unique fire challenge. Use of this power storage technology has expanded rapidly in recent years. With that use growing amongst guests, associates, and other patrons, some number of battery-based fire incidents have occurred involving a phenomenon known as *thermal runaway*. Thermal runaway starts with uncontrolled heating of a single battery cell, involving adjacent cells in turn and typically leading to a fire or explosion. The intent of this bulletin is to provide guidance to AHLA members with currently available information on safe management and emergency response practices.

AHLA encourages its members to adhere to the fire and building codes applicable to their respective jurisdiction and always follow manufacturers' recommendations.

INCIDENT PREVENTION

- **C** = Check conditions of device battery and charger
- **H** = Handle with care (do not charge if damaged – do not overcharge)
- **A** = Attended while charging
- **R** = Regulated temperatures (no extreme heat or cold)
- **G** = Gauge surroundings / charge in safe area (use common sense)
- **E** = Ensure use of proper / correct charger
- **D** = Dispose properly (do not dispose in trash or recycle bin)

EMERGENCY STEPS

- Upon the discovery or notification of incident:
 - **ENSURE YOUR OWN SAFETY**
 - Contain area (close doors, etc.)
 - Evacuate room / immediate area
 - Activate fire alarm
- Staff Procedures
 - Notify supervisor/manager
 - Follow SOP for fire incident
 - Coordinate with first responders (emergency services)

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Charging procedures
- Storage practices
- Pre-emergency planning / Risk mitigation
- Guest impact
- Staff / Operations impact
- Fire and Emergency response
- Remediation

Lithium-based battery fires are serious, challenging, and may require significant resources for recovery.

For additional information, please visit: [Lithium Battery Safety Guidance](#)

