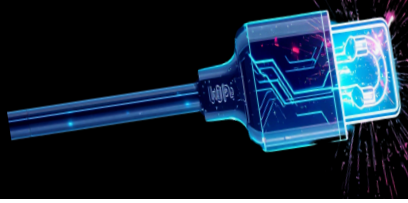
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2026

CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY

SAFE CHARGING IS A SUPERPOWER





October 4-10, 2026

Igniting Safety: Understanding Lithium-Ion Battery Risks

Lithium-ion batteries power many of our modern devices, from smartphones to laptops and electric vehicles. While incredibly convenient, they also pose a significant fire risk if not handled, charged, or disposed of properly. This year, the Cincinnati Fire Department is joining the national effort during Fire Prevention Week to empower you with the knowledge to **charge into fire safety** and prevent potential disasters. Understanding the risks associated with these powerful batteries is the first step towards a safer home and community.

Your Superpowers for Battery Safety

BUY SMART 🛒

- **Choose reputable brands:** Purchase batteries and charging equipment from well-known manufacturers. Avoid counterfeit or unbranded products that may not meet safety standards.
- **Look for certifications:** Ensure products have been tested and certified by recognized safety organizations (UL)

Check for damage: Before purchasing, inspect the product for any signs of damage.

CHARGE WITH CARE 🔋🔌

- **Use the correct charger:** Always use the charger that came with your device or a certified replacement.
- **Charge in a safe location:** Avoid charging devices near flammable materials or in extreme temperatures. Do not charge under pillows or blankets.
- **Supervise charging:** Do not leave devices charging unattended for extended periods, especially overnight.

Unplug when done: Once fully charged, unplug the device and charger.

RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY ♻️

- **Never put batteries in regular trash:** Lithium-ion batteries can leak, overheat, and cause fires in garbage trucks and landfills.
- **Find designated drop-off locations:** Many retailers, electronics stores, and local waste management facilities offer battery recycling programs.

Protect yourself and others: Charge tools and rides outside. Do not block exits. Don’t charge e-cigs or vapes on a plane.

Why It Matters: The Stark Reality of Battery Fires

The statistics are sobering. **In recent years, fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have surged, leading to significant property damage, injuries, and even fatalities.** These fires can be intense and difficult to extinguish due to the chemical composition of the batteries. Your commitment to safe practices directly contributes to reducing these devastating incidents in our community. Let's work together to make Cincinnati a leader in fire safety!

Need more information or have questions about lithium-ion battery safety? The Cincinnati Fire Department is here to help.
Email: FirePrevention@cincinnati-oh.gov

Follow us on social media for daily tips and updates!