



As Fire Prevention Week™ approaches, Champions ESD reminds residents:

“Safe Charging is a Superpower™”

Many devices used in our daily lives - phones, tablets, laptops, tools, toys, e-bikes, and scooters—run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which store a lot of energy in a small space. If they are damaged or charged the wrong way, they can overheat, start a fire, or even explode.

“The way you charge your lithium-ion battery devices can make a difference in helping prevent home fires,” said (your name, title, fire department). “It comes down to using simple habits each time you plug in.”

- **Use the cord and charger that came with your device** or one approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.
- Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. **Do not charge them on beds, couches, or under pillows.** Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.
- **Stop using your device if it feels very hot**, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.
- **Unplug your device when it is fully charged.** Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.
- **Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits.** These batteries are larger and store more energy. If they fail, fires can grow quickly and spread.
- When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention, visit fpw.org.

www.championsfire.org.