



October Safety Bulletin
Fire Prevention Week 2026

Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is A Superpower

October 4–10, 2026

Fire Prevention Week is an opportunity to identify and correct fire hazards before they become emergencies. The 2026 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme, **“Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower,”** focuses on the safe use and charging of lithium-ion batteries found in phones, laptops, tablets, power tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, and other devices. Lithium-ion batteries are generally safe when used properly, but damaged batteries, improper chargers, overheating and misuse can cause fires.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

Use the Right Charger

- Use the charger supplied with the device or one approved by the manufacturer.
- Never use damaged, incompatible, or counterfeit chargers.

Charge Safely

- Charge on a hard, flat surface where heat can escape.
- Do not charge devices on beds, couches, under pillows or blankets, or near combustible materials.
- Never charge e-bikes or e-scooters in stairways, corridors or other areas that could obstruct evacuation.

Inspect Batteries

- Do not use batteries that are:
- Swollen, cracked, punctured or leaking
- Unusually hot
- Producing an unusual odor
- Making hissing, popping, or cracking sounds
- Otherwise showing signs of damage or failure

Avoid Heat and Overloaded Outlets

- Keep batteries out of extreme heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords.
- Whenever possible, plug chargers directly into an appropriate wall outlet.

WARNING SIGNS

A failing lithium-ion battery may become **extremely hot, swell, leak, smoke, smell unusual, or make unusual noises.**

- If you see these warning signs:
- Move away and keep others away.
- Do not handle a damaged or smoking battery unless you are trained and it is safe.
- Call **9-1-1** when appropriate.

WHEN IN DOUBT — GET OUT!



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BASIC FIRE SAFETY

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- NFPA recommends smoke alarms:
- On every level of the home
- Inside bedrooms
- Outside sleeping areas
- Tested monthly
- Replace smoke alarms that are **10 years old or older**, unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise. Install carbon monoxide alarms outside sleeping areas and on every level.

TEST YOUR ALARMS THIS WEEK!

HAVE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Every household should have a fire escape plan and practice it.
- Identify **two ways out of every room whenever possible** and establish an outside meeting location. Plan for children, older adults, people with disabilities and anyone who may need assistance.

Never go back inside a burning building.

GET OUT. STAY OUT. CALL 9-1-1.

KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

- Cooking is a leading cause of home fires and injuries.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- If you leave, turn off the burner.
- For a small grease fire, turn off the burner if safe and slide a lid over the pan.
- Leave the lid in place until completely cool.

NEVER PUT WATER ON A GREASE FIRE.

- If the fire grows or cannot be safely controlled, **get out and call 9-1-1.**

HEATING SAFETY

- Keep portable heaters at least **three feet from anything that can burn.**
- Place heaters on a solid, level surface.
- Keep children and pets away.
- Plug electric heaters directly into a wall outlet.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Turn heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Use a fire extinguisher only when:
- The fire is small and contained.
- You have the correct extinguisher.
- You know how to use it.
- You have a clear escape route.
- Calling for emergency assistance will not be delayed.



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- If a fire is growing, spreading, or producing heavy smoke:

GET OUT!

Never fight a fire beyond your training or the capability of the extinguisher.

 WORKPLACE FIRE SAFETY

Employees can help prevent fires by identifying and reporting hazards.

Keep Clear

- Never block:
- Emergency exits or exit doors
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire alarm pull stations
- Electrical panels
- Fire department access areas

Report Hazards

- Immediately report:
- Damaged electrical cords
- Overloaded outlets
- Smoking or overheating equipment
- Damaged batteries
- Blocked exits
- Improper storage of combustible materials

KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

WHERE TO GO: Know your evacuation routes.

WHERE TO MEET: Know your emergency assembly area.

WHO TO CONTACT: Know how to report a fire.

WHAT TO DO: Follow your agency's emergency action plan and instructions from emergency personnel.

 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CHECKLIST

- Test smoke alarms
- Check carbon monoxide alarms
- Review and practice your escape plan
- Inspect electrical cords and chargers
- Check batteries for damage
- Use approved chargers
- Keep charging areas clear of combustibles
- Keep heaters three feet from combustibles
- Check fire extinguishers
- Keep exits and emergency equipment accessible



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- Review workplace emergency procedures

FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH YOU

Whether you are charging a cell phone, using a power tool, cooking, operating a heater or working in a public facility, take a moment to identify and correct potential fire hazards.

- **Charge Safely.**
- **Prevent Fires.**
- **Know Your Escape Plan.**
- **Get Out. Stay Out.**

“Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower”

Safety information based on educational materials and recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Always follow applicable workplace procedures, manufacturer instructions, and local fire department requirements.