

# Lithium Battery Charging Fires

Lithium-ion battery fires are a fast growing risk. This year, 70 fires have been started by lithium-ion batteries in WA alone, with 20 of these caused by eRideables. Fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries spread quickly and are difficult to extinguish, so it's crucial to know how to prevent them. Causes:

- overcharging or use of non-compliant charging equipment
- overheating or exposure to heat or extreme temperatures
- physical abuse (e.g., dropping, crushing, piercing, and/or vibrations)
- short-circuiting, battery cell malfunctions or system faults
- defects or contamination introduced during manufacture.



**DON'T LET YOUR DEVICE  
TAKE YOUR LIFE.**

*Lithium batteries are in phones, laptops and tablets, scooters and ebikes, electric cars, toys, vapes, hearing aids and more. Batteries are classed as hazardous waste and should never be placed in your kerbside bins. Take them to Northcliffe waste transfer station.*

# a little CRC

There isn't a lot you can do about some of these problems but here's some tips which may help:

- Avoid cheap devices, batteries and chargers which haven't been tested under Australia Standards. Here is the compliance mark for a device which has been tested, or which claims to have been tested. To know for sure you would need to search the equipment database on the Electrical Safety System website.



- Don't leave Lithium Ion devices in a hot car / direct sunlight where they will get hotter than designed for.

- If you see any signs of battery damage then stop using that device. Battery swelling is one of the number one signs of this. Phone users often discover their battery has swollen as the front screen will start to bow out, or push away from the case.

- If you have an affected device a way of storing it safely until you get to the repair person is to place it in a metal box full of sand. Another precaution is to not charge it.

- Don't charge a device which is sitting on a soft surface (a bed, a couch or carpet), or in a contained space where it could easily start a house fire. Using laptops and tablets on soft surfaces means their vents get covered over and they can overheat.

- Beware of devices where the trigger can get stuck and discharge the whole battery quickly.

- Check your smoke alarm is up to date and operational.

- Large batteries and devices should be charged outside of the house (such as in a shed or carport).

“Avoid leaving batteries or devices unattended while being charged or charging overnight. Once the device or battery is fully charged, disconnect it from the charger.”

This last piece of advice is one I personally find a bit difficult to follow. Is it practical? Image from DFES.

## From a Different Angle, Northcliffe's 2024 Photo Competition Finishes

Thanks to everyone who participated in *From a Different Angle*; those who entered images, those who attended the Sam Harris workshop, those who came to the opening and those who visited the exhibition. Thanks to this year's judge Wendy Eiby and to everyone who voted in The People's Choice Award. Thanks to our partners at Southern Forest Arts.

We received 108 entries from 28 entrants and chose 30 to display in the exhibition.

Prizes were won by Melissa North (1st), Scarlett Lovkis (2nd

prize and Youth Prize) and Chris Tate (Third prize). Highly commended were images by Julie Billing and Melissa North.

The People's Choice Award was won by Lyn Neal for 'Oh what a night Aurora Australia'. Lyn's image is featured on the cover of this month's Karri Pigeon.

Now the exhibition has come down, those who were included in the exhibition can come and collect their work from the Northcliffe Community Resource Centre. These are yours to keep now.

**Monday–Friday 10 am to 5pm**

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**Northcliffe  
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