

## **A Hot Topic**

So far in 2025, SPSA Regional Landfill has had to combat two instances of waste ignition, both likely the result of inappropriately discarded lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries catching fire. The fires, which occurred Jan 2nd & March 2nd, were relatively small-scale with no injuries to personnel or impact to facilities. This is primarily thanks to swift response from [City of Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue](#) and SPSA staff.

While SPSA is well-equipped to handle fires, lithium-ion battery fires are particularly unpredictable and can also occur anywhere in the waste stream- from homes to curbside bins to trucks to waste facilities. Therefore, lithium-ion battery fires pose a distinct threat to communal safety and the environment. As we know: prevention is better than response. Reducing the occurrence of these fires all starts with the proper disposal of household lithium-ion batteries and electronics.

## **Did You Know?**

Lithium-ion batteries are the most common type of rechargeable batteries. They are used to power our smartphones, laptops, e-cigarettes, Bluetooth devices, portable power tools, and more.

While widespread in usage, it's crucial to recognize that lithium-ion batteries can't be thrown away with general trash. This is due to their tendency to spontaneously combust when damaged, exposed to high or low temperatures, or when reaching their end-of-life. Lithium-ion battery fires are also difficult to extinguish.

## **Taking Charge!**

When you find yourself with a battery or electronic ready for disposal- stop and think. Rechargeable batteries and electronics should be dropped off at a certified disposal facility for safe handling. Locations accepting these batteries and electronics include SPSA's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & E-Waste facilities and participating local electronic and hardware stores.

Below are just a few pictures of batteries that should NOT be thrown away in regular trash. As we've seen a rise in small electronics and e-cigarettes, it is very important to follow safe disposal methods. By doing so, you're helping keep your community and the environment safe.

