

# Los Angeles Wildfires

## Lithium-ion batteries burned by wildfires



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to remove lithium-ion batteries affected by the Los Angeles County wildfires.

### This includes battery:

- recovery
- safe transportation
- processing (de-energizing)
- safe disposal



**Use extreme caution when returning to your property**



Your home may have damaged or destroyed lithium-ion batteries, lithium-ion battery energy storage systems, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

- ✓ **The batteries should be considered extremely dangerous**, even if they look intact.
- ✓ **Lithium-ion batteries can spontaneously re-ignite, explode, and emit toxic gases and particulates even after the fire is out.**

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## Household Items with Lithium-Ion Batteries:



### Other examples:

- Electric/hybrid vehicles
- Electric bikes
- Hoverboards
- Wheelchairs
- Digital cameras
- Home alarms
- Power banks or stations
- Game controllers
- Home energy storage systems
- Personal mobility device
- Scooters
- Drones
- Tablets
- Power tools
- Vaping devices

## If you hear a popping, hissing noise, or see smoke or fire:

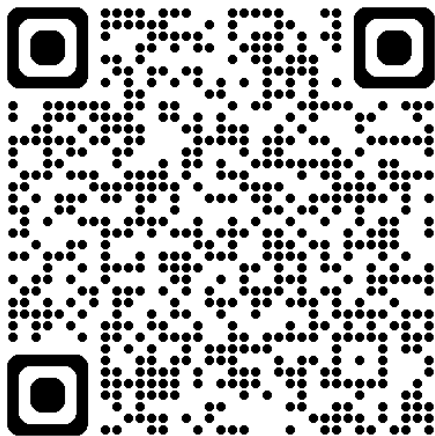
1. Do not attempt to extinguish or smother the battery.
2. Leave the area immediately.
3. Move upwind at least 330 ft (the length of a football field) and **call 911**.

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- **Do not** touch fire-damaged products with lithium-ion batteries – they can ignite.
- **Do not** start, move, tow, or charge a fire-damaged electric/hybrid vehicles (EV, PHEV, HEV). These will be assessed by EPA hazardous material professionals.
- **Do not** use or start a fire-damaged residential energy storage or house battery. These will be assessed by EPA hazardous material professionals.
- **Do not** enter enclosed spaces with lithium-ion battery products.
  - Gasses and vapors from damaged lithium-ion batteries can build up in enclosed spaces (such as a garage, shed, basement, or closet) and may produce an explosive environment.

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- **DO** call our hotline if you encounter a lithium-ion battery while re-entering your property and/or are unsure if a lithium-ion battery was damaged.



**[epa.gov/california-wildfires](https://epa.gov/california-wildfires)**

For questions about this work or **if you have an electric or hybrid vehicle and/or a battery energy storage system in the burn zone**, call the EPA hotline at:

**1-833-R9-USEPA  
(1-833-798-7372)**