Tool batteries and charging

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

> **Why it matters.** Lithium-ion tool batteries hold a lot of energy. If they are damaged, overheated or charged with the wrong charger, they can catch fire or explode, and these fires are hard to put out.

The hazards

- Fire from damaged, dropped or crushed batteries
- Overheating while charging, especially unattended
- Wrong or cheap chargers
- Charging near fuel, rubbish or flammable materials
- Batteries left in hot vans or direct sun

Stay safe

- Use only the manufacturer's charger for each battery
- Check batteries for damage, swelling or heat before use, and remove damaged ones
- Charge in the agreed area, away from flammable materials and escape routes
- Don't leave batteries charging overnight or unattended
- Store batteries in a cool, dry place
- Dispose of damaged batteries safely: never put them in general waste
- Know where the nearest fire extinguisher is and how to raise the alarm

Ask the team

1. Where are batteries charged on this site?
2. What are the warning signs of a damaged battery?
3. What would you do if a battery started smoking?

The law and guidance

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Tool batteries and charging

Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.