

2026 Eastern Washington Wildfires

Lithium-ion Battery Recovery

Keeping the Community Safe



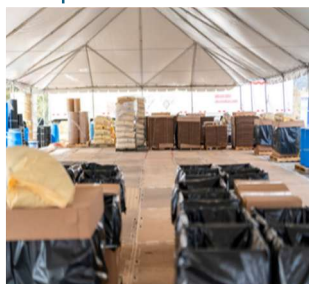
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to survey, remove, and safely dispose of household hazardous materials on properties affected by the 2026 Eastern Washington Wildfires. This includes safe recovery, transportation, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries.

The road to safe battery disposal:



Collection

- After inspection of electric vehicles and Powerwalls, batteries are carefully removed and crews leave markings
- Batteries are collected from household items and taken to an EPA staging area



Treatment

- Once at an EPA staging area, batteries are de-energized, if needed, and placed in drums with a special fire suppressing material so they can be safely transported for disposal



Disposal

- Batteries are safely packaged and transported under U.S. Department of Transportation rules to an appropriate recycling and disposal facility

Household Items with Lithium-Ion Batteries:

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

Use extreme caution when returning to your property



Fire-impacted lithium-ion batteries should be considered extremely dangerous, even if they look intact.



These types of batteries can spontaneously re-ignite, explode, and emit toxic gases and particulates even after a fire is out.

If you hear a popping, hissing noise, or see smoke or fire coming from a battery:

- **Do not** attempt to extinguish or smother the battery.
- **Leave** the area immediately and move upwind at least 330 ft (the length of a football field).
- **CALL 911**

DO NOT

- Use or touch fire-impacted products with lithium-ion batteries – they can ignite
- Start, move, tow, or charge a fire-damaged electric/hybrid vehicle (EV, PHEV, HEV) until EPA has removed the battery
- Use or start fire-impacted residential energy storage or house batteries
- Enter enclosed spaces with lithium-ion battery products



For more information on battery disposal visit the Washington State Department of Ecology's battery guidance website: ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/guidance-technical-assistance/dangerous-waste-guidance/common-dangerous-waste/batteries



FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT HHM REMOVAL WORK:

• epa.gov/washington-wildfires
☎ 1-888-509-0667
✉ region10@epa.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH QUESTIONS?

Visit the Spokane Regional Health District website at srhd.org or 509.324.1500