HAZARD ALERT
Lithium Polymer (LiPo) Batteries

DESCRIPTION
Lithium-ion polymer (LiPo) batteries are used for many applications around the University. These batteries have many advantages, in particular small size, varying shape profiles and light weight. However, if these batteries are overcharged, over-discharged, heated, short-circuited, or physically damaged, a fire may result. LiPo battery fires are extremely hot (>1000°C), produce toxic smoke and are difficult to extinguish.

RISK RATING
Score: High Risk
Explanation: Consequence = Major (significant lost time injury/extremely serious/possible fatality)
Likelihood = Possible (might occur)

KEY LEARNINGS / ACTIONS FOR PREVENTION:
All areas using these batteries should have safety rules in place for charging, regular inspection, and disposal of these batteries.
Safety rules should include –
• Charge only with an approved LiPo charger, according to the parameters for the particular battery
• Charge on a non-flammable surface (concrete, ceramic, steel) away from any flammable material
• Do not leave unattended when charging
• Store and transport in a non-flammable container
• Regularly check the condition of the battery. Do not use if damaged or swollen

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