

Five Important Rechargeable Battery Tips

Rechargeable batteries (lithium ion in particular) have become synonymous with everyday life. There are details about their manufacture, use, and care however that may not be common knowledge. Please see below five important tips on safe use.

1. **'Off market' batteries/accessories** – there are many sources for what appears to be identical batteries and accessories (chargers, cables, etc.) to replace or augment one's power supply. However, a number of these items are constructed to a different safety and/or quality assurance standard than the original manufacturer intended for use with their product. It is always recommended to use the original equipment that came with the device, and/or buy like for like replacements from the same manufacturer. Also keep in mind that Canada has many electrical safety marks one should learn to recognize (e.g., CSA, Curtis-Straus, ETL Intertek Entela, Semko, QPS, etc). If you purchase an item from outside of Canada (online or otherwise), you (not the seller) are the importer and responsible to ensure it is approved for use in this country.
2. **Charging below freezing** – did you know that consumer grade lithium ion batteries and **not** made to be charged below 0°C (i.e., freezing temperatures)? Below this temperature, there is potential for plating of metallic lithium within the battery, compromising its safety permanently. This can happen even though the battery appears to be charging normally, and can be a cumulative effect over several cycles below 0°C.
3. **Open air use/charging** – most consumer devices are designed and tested with open air charging and use in mind in order to allow heat to dissipate. That is, the device has not been tested for functionality/safety when heavily insulated. Avoid using/charging your devices under pillows, blankets, etc. This could (and has) result(ed) in fires and personal injury.
4. **Solar charging banks** – did you know that even though there are power banks with solar cells attached, that these are very likely not meant to be left in a hot vehicle to charge (e.g., on the dash). Consumer batteries are not made to withstand severe temperatures like those found in a car interior with the windows closed. **Always consult the user manual.**
5. **Storage** – it is always recommended to store batteries away from large quantities of flammable materials, and ensure they are well oriented to prevent conductive material from potentially shorting the terminals.

WHMIS 2015 Reminder

We are quickly approaching the December 1st, 2018 deadline for reaching compliance with respect to the new WHMIS 2015 Legislation.

If you have not yet done so, please contact your department safety rep or Andrew (afeicht1@unb.ca) immediately to confirm how you will handle your current inventory of items labelled under the WHMIS 1988 system.



Working in the Heat

Regardless of being inside or out, every employee should listen to their body and learn to recognize the three main forms of heat stress:

1. **Heat cramps** – painful muscle spasms and excessive sweating;
2. **Heat exhaustion** – headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea and clammy skin;
3. **Heat stroke** – severe headache, confusion, delirium, convulsions, loss of consciousness and hot, dry, flushed skin.

Stay hydrated and take breaks as required.






Incident Reporting

If you are injured or nearly injured while at UNB, you must complete a UNB Accident Report Form within 24 hours, and, if treatment is required (first aid inclusive or more) notify Security immediately at 506-453-4830.


UNB Report – <https://es.unb.ca/apps/accident-report/>

WorkSafeNB Link for more information - <https://www.worksafenb.ca/docs/WhenAccidentsHappen.pdf>

Training Sessions:

-  Radiation Safety – By request
-  First Aid (2-day) – Register now
-  First Aid Refresher (1-day) – Register now

Waste Collections:

-  General Hazardous – August
- For more information, or to register:
Contact Kim, 453-5075, safety@unb.ca