



**DFES General Circular No: 120/2024**

File: D36175

**DATE**

**REPORTING LITHIUM BATTERY FIRE INCIDENTS**

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**Battery Fires**

DFES receives many requests for information about Lithium battery related incidents. To help answer these, the OIS Branch have updated the options in the Incident Reporting System (IRS) so that you can record information more accurately.

There has been a rapid increase in fires involving batteries worldwide due to the increased use of battery powered items. This includes fires involving mobile phones, e-rideables, battery powered tools and devices.

**Why is accurate reporting important?**

Accurate reporting results in good data which assists in both research and reporting to other agencies including ACCC, WorkSafe and WA Police. It also directly impacts our ability to assist and protect the public.

When a Fire Investigator attends an incident, they must ensure that the Ignition information (Block E) has been entered correctly and make any necessary corrections. In all other cases, the officer assigned the IRS Primary Report must ensure it is completed entirely in an accurate and timely manner.

Presumptive Legislative Claims and public insurance claims are directly supported using the information recorded in IRS.

**Changes**

The new options are shown on the second page of this Circular. They show the new fields in IRS for recording:

- Form of the Heat of Ignition
- Ignition Factor
- Equipment Involved in Ignition

For more information, please contact OIS Branch on 9395 9406 or email [reports@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:reports@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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**MANAGER OPERATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

## Lithium Ion and other Battery Related Options in Ignition Block

### Form of the Heat of Ignition

- 201.1 Battery - Lithium Ion
- 201.2 Battery - Lithium Polymer
- 201 Battery Dry cell rechargeable (eg. Lithium Ion or NiCad)
- 202 Battery Wet cell (eg. 12v lead acid car battery)
- 203 Battery Dry cell not rechargeable
- 204 Battery - other

### Ignition Factor

- 510 Part failure, leak, break
- 550 Other electrical failure
- 540 Short-circuit, ground fault
- 740 Overloaded
- 710 Collision, overturn, knock over

**Ignition - Edit**

Area Of Origin

Occupant of Ignition Area

Activity in Ignition Area

Form of the Heat of Ignition

Ignition Factor

Type of Material Ignited First

Form of Material Ignited First

Equipment Involved in Ignition

Year of Manufacture   Make   Model   Serial No   Voltage

### Equipment Involved in Ignition

- Battery not in use (in storage, rubbish)
- E-rideable (e-skateboard, e-scooter, e-bike)
- Hand tools (includes electric chainsaws, drills, power saws, grinder)
- Rectifier, charger (includes inverter, battery charger)
- Vehicle - EV (Electric Vehicle)