###### WM Offers Tips to Prevent Fires Caused by Lithium Ion Batteries

**and other Hazardous Household Items**

# By Name

# WM X Area Vice President (or alternatively the Area Safety Director)

# As Summer approaches, our WM team would like to remind X [County/City] residents what you can do to help prevent the number of garbage and recycling truck and facility fires in our area.

# These fires are most often caused by the improper disposal of hazardous household materials and are dangerous for our drivers, local firefighters and the neighborhoods where these ‘hot loads’ must be quickly managed.

Lithium ion batteries, now in so many household products including electronics, toys, small appliances, vape pens and even greeting cards, are sparking many of the truck fires and cannot be put in curbside garbage or recycling containers.

Instead, visit [insert local resource website] to find a nearby household hazardous waste drop off location for your lithium ion and rechargeable batteries. Many retailers also accept batteries. Go to [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) to find a retailer near you.

WM also offers these safety tips for the proper disposal of barbeque coals, paint and other household hazardous waste:

* Cool coals for several days on the grill or in a metal container full of water then place in a metal container with a tight lid before placing in your trash container.
* Never place used coals in plastic, paper or wood containers.
* Keep all flammable and hazardous materials out of your waste and recycling containers including propane tanks, paint, pool chemicals, motor oil and pesticides. Instead, take them to your local household hazardous waste drop off location.

By following these simple tips, you can help protect WM drivers, our trucks and facilities, and your neighborhood from dangerous and costly fires.