**Your Actions Have Real Consequences: Properly Storing Lithium Batteries**

**Word Count:** 205

Lithium batteries are increasingly common in most cordless electronic devices, but improper storage can result in disastrous fires, causing injuries, millions of dollars in damages and even death. From 2013 – 2018 alone, lithium batteries were the cause of over 25,000 fires, and as these batteries continue to gain popularity due to their convenience, the hazards they pose will only increase.

Manufacturers have yet to solve how to best dispose of these batteries, and it is important consumers are aware of the hazards they pose. Practicing safe storage is a critical part of this consumer education.

Lithium batteries can start fires because of overheating –when storing these batteries, ensure they are in a cool, dry place away from flammable materials. It is also important that when storing multiple lithium batteries together, they are not touching. The same storage practices should always be used for “dead” lithium batteries as well.

There are also resources that can help consumers dispose of these potentially dangerous devices. Guidance on how and where to recycle products can be found at [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org/), while [www.searchearth911.com](http://www.searchearth911.com/) offers shipping options and community locations. Typically, local municipalities or hardware stores can provide recycling options. Consumer awareness is an increasingly important element in combating this hidden hazard.