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## **NWRA and SWANA Partner to Address Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal Challenges**

**Arlington, VA** – The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) and the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) today released a joint policy statement addressing the critical issue of lithium-ion battery disposal. Improper disposal of these batteries presents significant safety hazards, including fires that endanger people, property, and the waste and recycling infrastructure.

The statement reads, "Lithium-ion batteries require special handling for proper recycling and disposal. They should never be placed in waste or curbside recycling bins as they can cause fires, endangering people and waste and recycling infrastructure. The best solution is to use take-back programs designed for safe collection and recycling. NWRA and SWANA are committed to promoting awareness and supporting policy initiatives that ensure proper battery disposal to protect workers, communities and the environment."

NWRA President and CEO Michael E. Hoffman emphasized the urgency of addressing this growing issue: "Improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries is a pressing safety and environmental concern. At NWRA, we are committed to raising awareness and supporting policy initiatives that promote effective take-back programs, ensuring these batteries are safely and responsibly disposed, with end-of-life certainty. Our partnerships with SWANA and others, aims to protect workers, communities, and the environment from the risks posed by these batteries."

SWANA Executive Director and CEO Amy Lestition Burke, MA, FASAE, CAE, added: "Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries are one of the biggest issues facing our industry. Municipalities often bear the cost burden of collecting batteries and informing their residents of proper disposal methods for batteries. SWANA seeks to support its members with raising awareness of the fire hazards and to improve collection opportunities for batteries. This statement with our partners at NWRA provides a clear explanation of the issue. Our associations will use that statement as a baseline to elevate the issue and support our advocacy."

Batteries, particularly lithium-ion batteries, present unique challenges for recycling and disposal. Improper disposal can result in fires, posing serious risks to consumers, waste and recycling workers, and critical infrastructure. To mitigate these risks, NWRA and SWANA support effective take-back programs with clear end-of-life certainty and public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on safe disposal methods.

Through this collaboration, NWRA and SWANA are committed to advancing policies and initiatives that enhance the safety and sustainability of battery disposal. Both organizations encourage municipalities, industry stakeholders, and the public to work together to develop and support economically sound and responsible recycling solutions.

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**ABOUT NWRA**

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) represents the private sector waste and recycling services industry. Association members conduct business in all 50 states and include companies that manage solid, industrial/hazardous, medical, and construction/demolition debris waste, and represent equipment manufacturers and distributors, and a variety of other professional service providers. For more information about NWRA, please visit [www.wasterecycling.org](http://www.wasterecycling.org).

**ABOUT SWANA**

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is an organization of more than 10,000 public and private sector professionals committed to advancing from solid waste management to resource management through their shared emphasis on education, advocacy and research. For more information about SWANA, please visit <https://swana.org/>.

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