

Fire Dangers of Old Batteries in Your Home



Did you know that old batteries, or even new batteries, that are not properly stored in your home can cause a fire? The fire occurs when the terminals from two batteries touch one another and short out the terminals. Even a metal object like a paper clip, scissors, or steel wool can touch a battery and short the terminals. When these are placed in a junk drawer the movement of the drawers being opened and closed provides the perfect environment for a disaster. This is common with 9 volt and Lithium batteries.

What can you do to prevent this from happening to you? Place each battery in a separate plastic bag or cover the terminals with electrical tape or another type of insulated tape. Bring your batteries to the Harris County HHW Facility frequently and do not wait and bring them when you have collected a full bag. Remember - it is a good practice to do this for all batteries.

Below are a few links where you can find out more information about these type fires.

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/24594124/kctv5-exposes-the-9-volt-battery-fire-danger>

<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2012/08/22/experts-warn-against-storing-9-volt-batteries-in-junk-drawer-due-to-fire-hazard/>

http://www.doityourself.com/stry/safety-considerations-for-an-alkaline-battery#.U_9pVHgo6t8