Lakewood Fire District No. 1
733 Cedar Bridge Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2025

Subject: Fire Prevention Week

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Fire Prevention Week
October 5th through 11th, 2025

The following information is provided by the Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners, in conjunction with Fire Chief Jonathan Yahr, Fire Prevention Specialist Sima Clapman, and the members of the Lakewood Fire Department.

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, **The Lakewood Fire Department is hosting Fire Prevention Day on Monday, October 13, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This free event will be held in the parking lot at BlueClaws, ShoreTown Ballpark, 2 Stadium Way, Lakewood, NJ 08701. There will be interactive Fire demonstrations, Apparatus demonstrations, and Gift Bags with Fire Safety information.

The history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, but lasted 27 hours and incurred the most damage the following day. It remains one of the best-known fire disasters in the world. As a result, October 9, 1871, is the date most often connected with this tragic conflagration. In the end, the Great Chicago Fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2000 acres. While the origin of the fire has never been determined, there has been much speculation over how it began. One popular legend was that Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting O'Leary's barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze. It is a less well-known fact that on the same day of the Great Chicago Fire, the Peshtigo Fire roared through Northern Wisconsin, killing 1,152 people, and burning more than a million acres.

On the Great Chicago Fire's 40th anniversary, the former Fire Marshals Association of North America (now the International Fire Marshals Association, or IFMA) sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day, advocating an annual observance as a way to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which October 9th falls. In addition, the

President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a national observance during that week every year since 1925 making Fire Prevention Week the oldest safety commemoration.

Dedicated to raising public awareness about the dangers of fire and how to prevent it, the National Fire Prevention Association, or NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week.

The Lakewood Fire Department is excited to announce this year's theme:

"Charge Up Fire Safety™: Fire Safety and Lithium-Ion Batteries."

Lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use every day - from phones and laptops to e-bikes, scooters, and power tools. While these batteries provide convenience, they can also pose serious fire risks if not used, charged, or disposed of properly. This year's campaign educates the public on safe charging practices, recognizing warning signs of battery failure, and steps to take if a battery overheats or catches fire.

Safety Tips for Lithium-Ion Batteries

The Lakewood Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommend the following precautions:

- Only use devices and batteries that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and storage.
- Use only the charger that comes with the device.
- Stop using batteries that show signs of swelling, overheating, or leaking.
- Store batteries at room temperature and away from flammable materials.

"Lithium-ion batteries power so much of our daily lives, but it's essential to use them safely," said Fire Prevention Specialist Sima Clapman. "This year's Fire Prevention Week theme - **Charge Up Fire Safety** - reminds everyone to charge smart and stay safe."

This year's focus on lithium-ion battery safety is critical as these batteries become increasingly common in homes and workplaces. Proper handling and charging can dramatically reduce the risk of dangerous fires.

To learn more about **Fire Prevention Week 2025** and lithium-ion battery safety, visit www.fpw.org. Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at www.sparky.org and www.sparkyschoolhouse.org. Additional Fire Safety Information for parents, children and educators can be found by visiting the Lakewood Fire Department Website at www.lakewoodfd.org.

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FIRE PREVENTION *day*

11 AM - 3 PM

OCTOBER
13TH

FREE ENTRY

BLUECLAWS PARKING LOT

2 STADIUM WAY, LAKEWOOD NJ

Learn about Fire Safety, Interactive Displays, Demonstrations, Games, And More!

www.lakewoodfd.org

FIRE LAKEWOOD DEPT.

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PREVENCIÓN DE INCENDIOS

11 AM - 3 PM

OCTUBRE
13TH

EVENTO GRATIS

ESTACIONAMIENTO DE BLUECLAWS

2 STADIUM WAY, LAKEWOOD NJ

¡Aprenda sobre la seguridad contra incendios, participe en exhibiciones interactivas, demostraciones, juegos y mucho más!

www.lakewoodfd.org

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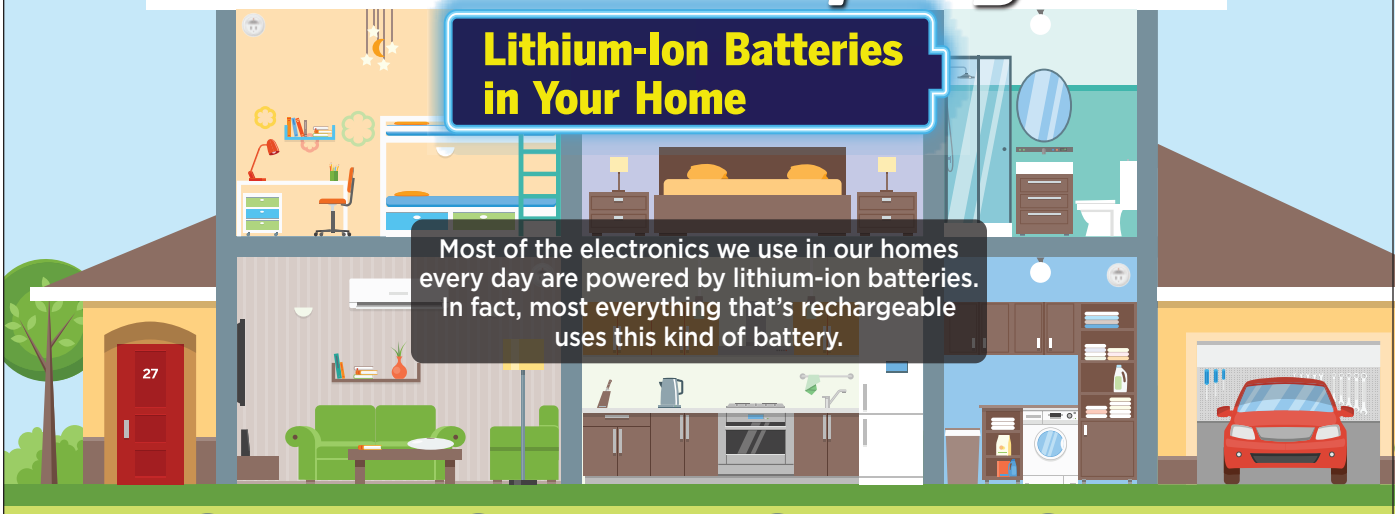
CHARGE into Fire Safety™

Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home



Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this kind of battery.

- e-bikes
- e-vehicles
- e-scooters
- golf carts
- hoverboards
- power tools
- laptops
- smart watches
- tablets
- mobile phones
- e-cigarettes/ vapes
- headphones
- cordless vacuum cleaners
- remote control cars
- drones
- toys

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to **BUY**, **CHARGE**, and **RECYCLE** these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.

BUY only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

STOP using your device right away if the battery smells weird, gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

CHARGE devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.

RECYCLE batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.

CHARGE your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

RECYCLE your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit **call2recycle.org** to find a recycling spot near you.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The Leading Information and Knowledge Resource on Fire, Electrical, and Related Hazards

FIRE LAKEWOOD DEPT.

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