

## PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

Brown County

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### **A reminder on National Battery Day: Don't let batteries burst into flames**

**For Immediate Release**

**February 13, 2019**

(Green Bay, WI) February 18 is National Battery Day. It's a good day to be reminded of the right way to dispose of batteries, and the risks if you don't. [Brown County Resource Recovery](#) is reminding residents to prevent battery fires in their homes, as well in recycling and waste facilities, by properly disposing of rechargeable batteries.

"The main reason rechargeable batteries shouldn't be put in the trash is the risk of fire if they are mishandled or damaged," explained Chris Blan, Resource Recovery Technician. "Many devices – laptops, power tools, drones, remote controlled vehicles, tablets, and more – use rechargeable lithium ion batteries and have a high risk for starting fires. Keep in mind that it's also against the law in Wisconsin to put electronics in the trash. So, if your laptop breaks, there's a good chance that the lithium ion battery inside is damaged. It could combust in your garbage can, or the garbage truck or landfill."

Instead of throwing them in the garbage, rechargeable batteries should be brought to the [Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery](#) facility after being properly prepared:

1. Put each battery in an individual, clear plastic bag, or tape each battery's terminals with clear packing, electrical or duct tape to prevent overheating or short circuiting. Make sure chemistry symbols are visible.
2. Store batteries in a non-metal, leak-proof container, such as a plastic container or bucket with a lid.
3. Store swollen or damaged batteries in sand or kitty litter.

Not only is there a risk of fire with improper battery disposal, there is also the risk of damage to the environment. The materials – including mercury, lithium, cadmium, lead and acids – in many types of both rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries have the potential to be hazardous wastes. If batteries are burned or landfilled, the heavy metals in them can be released into the environment.

"We urge residents to think twice about the impacts of improper battery disposal, and instead choose to Recycle Right to keep themselves, waste management workers and the environment safe," added Mark Walter, Resource Recovery Business Manager.

ALL types of batteries can be brought to the Hazardous Material Recovery facility for safe recycling, with a minimal recycling fee. For more information on how to Recycle Right in Brown County, please visit [www.browncountyrecycling.org](http://www.browncountyrecycling.org).

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*Brown County Resource Recovery: The purpose of the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department is to meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are environmentally sound and economical.*

For more information, visit our website at: [www.BrownCountyRecycling.org](http://www.BrownCountyRecycling.org)  
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