

## BULLETIN

NO.: 26-011  
DATE: February 4, 2026  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: Dan Eddy, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Operations  
Willy Melendez, Assistant Fire Chief, Strategic Operations  
SUBJECT: Lithium-Ion Battery Incidents

The fire service continues to see an increase in Lithium-ion battery incidents. These batteries are used in an ever-increasing number of products including electric vehicles (EVs), electric bikes, scooters, toys, and various electronics. Some residential and commercial structures now contain lithium-ion storage units or battery walls. When these batteries become damaged or involved with fire, they present a significant hazard to responding units and can be difficult to extinguish. Lithium-ion battery fires are often characterized by significant popping or hissing sounds and a large production of toxic white smoke in a very short time.

SDFD has established a working group to help guide procedure development, evaluate response data, and recommend future best practices. As part of these efforts, ECDC will now add a CAD notification whenever a fire may have a lithium-ion battery involved. This comment will be used to track data and provide situational awareness to responding units.

To increase awareness for responding crews, **\*\*\*Possible Lithium Ion Battery Involved\*\*\*** will display in the call notes and in the Standback/Staging field on the MDC. The intent is to ensure full PPE use and early SCBA use whenever a lithium-ion battery is potentially damaged or involved with fire. This comment will be used in the following circumstances:

- When questioning callers for **Vehicle Fires**, dispatchers will inquire “Is the vehicle(s) involved/on fire an Electric Vehicle?”. If the RP identifies that the vehicle is or suspected to be an electric vehicle, the dispatcher will add the comment and notify responding units.
- If the RP indicates an **Electric bike or Scooter** is on fire, dispatchers will add the comment and notify responding units.
- If the RP indicates that a lithium-ion battery is involved with any other types of fires (ex. Structure Fires), dispatchers will add the comment and notify responding units.
- Dispatchers may also add the comment at the request of units on scene to ensure accurate data and tracking.
- Due to its toxicity, even light smoke production poses a significant inhalation hazard.
- Crews are directed to don full protective equipment, including SCBA, anytime they encounter a confirmed or suspected lithium-ion fire.

Below are examples of the lithium-ion battery notification for both Tablet Command and the MDC.

Incident: **CAD Test** Generate PDF

Incident Number: **FS26008358**  
 Call Type: **CAD Test**  
 Common Place Name: **ECDC - Premise Utility**  
 Location Comment: **ECDC - Premise Utility**  
 Agency: **San Diego**  
 Start Time: **11:39:05, January 14 2026**  
 Modified Time: **11:39:24, January 14 2026**  
 Address: **3750 Kearny Villa Rd, BLDG: SDC-1827, SAN DIEGO CA**  
 Cross Streets: **AERO DR/STATE ROUTE 163 NB OFF RAMP**

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**Units** 0

Unit	Alarm	DSP	RSP	STG	ONS	TR	AH	AVL	Personnel
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**Comments** 10

Modified	Source	Comments
11:39:22 01/14/2026	BTJ	[6] <b>**POSS LITHIUM ION BATTERY**</b>
11:39:11 01/14/2026	BTJ	[5] Test Call

Mobile Enterprise - [Incident]

Login/Logout Queries Messages Drafts Units Calls Status Tools Options Help

Div: Zone 2 (Zone 2) Unit: B40 Call: <unassigned> Status: ▼

Back Fwd RSP STGD ATS AVAIL TRANS PORT AT HOSP Map Calls Units Msgs MORE

INC: **FS26008358** PROBLEM: CAD Test  
 RADI: LEVE | Level 2 Fire  
 INFO: **\*\*POSS LITHIUM ION BATTERY\*\***  
 ADDRESS: **3750 Kearny Villa Rd**  
 LOCATI: **ECDC - Premise Utility**  
 CROSS: **AERO DR/STATE ROUTE 163 NB OFF RAMP**

INFO HISTORY HAZMAT CAUTION PREM SCHED TRANS

PSGRI: **SDC-1827** FD MAP  
 RSP ARE: **28-NSR-01**  
 MDC UNI  
 OTH UNIT

Time/Date	Performed By	Con	Comments
11:39...	BTJ	[6]	<b>**POSS LITHIUM ION BATTERY**</b>
11:39...	BTJ	[5]	Test Call
11:38...	Automatic by System	[2]	[Address: 3750 KEARNY VILLA RD [ECDC - Premise Utility]] [Medium] [FD] TEST - L UTILITY.
11:38...	Automatic by System	[4]	[Geographic Area: 3750 KEARNY VILLA RD] [Medium] [FD] PD RADIO CHANNELS -
11:38...	Automatic by System	[3]	[Premise: 3750 KEARNY VILLA RD [ECDC - Premise Utility]] [Medium] [FD] TEST - L UTILITY.
11:38...	Automatic by System	[1]	[Geographic Area: 3750 KEARNY VILLA RD] [Low] [FD] TRAUMA CATCHMENT ARE