

Batteries and Battery Charging

General Requirements:

- Maintain a well-ventilated area for charging that prevents the accumulation of gases and the escape of fumes, gases, or electrolyte spray into other areas.
- Verify that an appropriate fire extinguisher (ABC) is nearby for fire protection.
- Proper PPE must be worn when exposed to an open battery compartment to protect from exposure to battery acid. This may include an apron, long nitrile gloves, goggles, or face shield.
- Facilities for quick drenching of the eyes and body (eyewash and safety shower) should be located within 25 feet of battery handling areas if battery caps are removed and if electrolyte acid is added or removed. *It is not necessary to have quick drenching or flushing facilities if closed batteries are simply undergoing charge.*
- Refer to manufacturer's recommendations on how to properly charge the battery.

Charging:

- Charging installations should be located in areas designated for that purpose.
- When charging, vent caps should be kept in place to avoid electrolytic spray. Ensure the vent caps are clear of dirt or debris and have not been intentionally modified to affect their ability to perform as designed.
- The battery or compartment cover(s) should be open to dissipate heat.
- Ensure there are no flames, sparks, smoking, or electric arcs in the area.
- Ensure lighting is adequate to perform the task assigned.
- The charger must be plugged directly into a wall socket and not into an extension cord.

Spills, Disposal:

- Flushing and neutralizing capabilities for spilled electrolyte should be available. This can include a baking soda and water solution or commercially-available battery acid spill kit.
- If a large spill occurs, or you are not able to sufficiently neutralize/clean a smaller spill, contact [Environmental Health and Safety](#).
- Used batteries can be disposed of through battery retailers or the EHS [Chemical Waste Program](#).
- If an injury occurs, follow the instructions [here](#) to report the incident.