

Lithium batteries in the tool trailer

Talk 41 of 52 | Week 41 | Tools and handling

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

Several cordless tool batteries are charging together in a crowded storage trailer.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Follow the battery and charger manufacturer's instructions, including compatibility and charging conditions. A connector that fits does not prove a substitute charger or battery is suitable for use.
2. Inspect for damage, swelling, unusual heat, or other abnormal condition. Remove questionable equipment from use through the employer's process and report it without attempting to dismantle or repair the pack.
3. Keep charging areas organized and away from conditions prohibited by the manufacturer. Prevent loose metal from contacting terminals during storage and transportation using the intended protective arrangements.
4. Discuss the site's response to smoke, unusual odor, or a battery incident. Raise the alarm, keep people away, and follow the emergency plan; do not improvise firefighting or handling.
5. Plan approved disposal or return for damaged and end-of-life packs. Leaving a rejected battery in the shared usable stock creates a risk that another worker will unknowingly put it back into service.
6. Crew exercise: apply this discussion to one actual location in today's assignment. Describe the sequence from preparation through cleanup, identify who could be affected, and agree what must be in place before the first person starts. Use a drawing or a safe observation point; do not create an exposure for the demonstration.
7. Make the decision practical: name the person who will resolve missing information and confirm the controls. If the planned conditions change, stop the affected activity and obtain a revised plan. At the next briefing, review whether the agreed action was completed and what the crew learned.

ASK THE CREW

1. What is the most important hazard in our version of this task?
2. What would make us stop and ask for a revised plan?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Identify one task-specific improvement, assign a responsible person, and confirm it is in place before the affected work begins.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA: Solutions for Electrical Contractors

Attendance & action record

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Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

EDUCATIONAL USE & LIABILITY NOTICE

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Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

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