



Learning Event



WORKING WITH ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

HAZARD
Radiation
(Radiant heat)

Fire

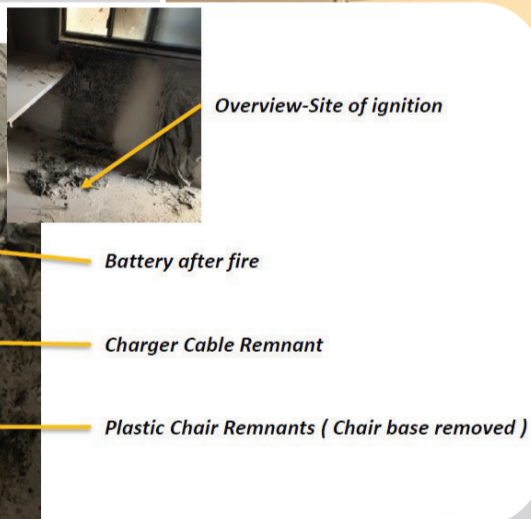
CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons
Potential: This could have caused a fatality

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT THE RISK OF FIRE WHEN CHARGING LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES?

What Happened?

A lithium-ion battery used to power smoking (vape) equipment was being charged in an unattended camp room. Heat generated from the battery being charged resulted in a fire. The fire quickly engulfed the plastic chair the charger was placed on and laddered up to plastic blackout curtains and adjacent wall cladding. A camp resident reported smoke. First responders found the room alight and that smoke alarms had been activated. The fire was controlled using 2 x 4.5kg dry chemical extinguishers.



Overview-Site of ignition

Battery after fire

Charger Cable Remnant

Plastic Chair Remnants (Chair base removed)



Why did it Happen?

The lithium-ion battery charger malfunctioned. It was approximately 9 months old and had operated without fault prior to the event. When lithium-ion batteries are damaged or failing, they can cause the charger to remain engaged and generate substantial amounts of heat. Placing the battery and charger on a plastic chair provided fuel and intensified the fire.

What did they Learn?

- Camp induction reviewed to promote awareness of hazard associated with charging lithium-ion batteries.
- Modify camp rooms to prevent them being energised when unattended.

IOGP Life Saving Rules

- ✓ Understand and use safety critical equipment and procedures which apply to the task
- ✓ Identify and control ignition sources

Ask yourself or your Crew:

Do you use equipment that is powered by lithium-ion batteries? Do you know there is a risk of fire when charging lithium-ion batteries? Do you know how to manage this risk, including what to do in the event of a fire?

Further information:



SCAN ME



NFPA – Lithium-ion battery safety mini-portal

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