

 Solid Waste Services OPERATIONS POLICY/ PROCEDURE	SWS P&P No. <b>DISP 01-2024</b>	<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
	Effective Date: <b>March 22, 2024</b>	
Subject:  <b>LITHIUM-ION BATTERY DISPOSAL</b>	Supersedes No. N/A	Dated: March 22, 2024
	Approved by: Kelli Toth, SWS Acting Director	

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the lithium-ion battery policy is to mitigate the risk of landfill fires and to promote safety and environmentally responsible waste management. Lithium-ion batteries pose a significant fire and safety hazard when improperly disposed. Recognizing the potential environmental and safety risks associated with these batteries, this policy aims to safeguard the community including Municipal staff, and the public, Municipal assets, and the environment by diverting lithium-ion batteries through appropriate disposal channels. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facility provides a controlled environment for the safe handling of Lithium-ion batteries minimizing the risk of fires, increasing safety, and reducing the possibility of environmental contamination.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of Solid Waste Services (SWS) that the disposal of lithium-ion batteries at the Anchorage Regional Landfill, Central Transfer Station, and Girdwood transfer station is strictly prohibited. All individuals and businesses are mandated to dispose of lithium-ion batteries exclusively at the designated Household Hazardous Waste collection facilities located at the Anchorage Regional Landfill and the Central Transfer Station.

## III. PROCEDURE

- a. Avoid Household Garbage or Recycling bins: Lithium-ion batteries must not be disposed of in household garbage or recycling bins.
- b. Terminal Taping, Bagging, and Separating: To prevent fires, tape the battery terminals and separate them from other batteries when at the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility.
- c. Do not puncture, crush, or otherwise mechanically damage a lithium-ion battery. If the separator inside the battery is breached, a short circuit can cause heat buildup causing thermal runaway and cause a fire immediately or some other time in the future and may be unknown by the processor/transporter or landfill operators.

**IV. ENFORCEMENT**

Violations of this policy may result in penalties and legal consequences as outlined in local waste management regulations. It is the responsibility of residents, businesses, and waste disposal personnel to adhere to this policy ensuring the collective effort to create a safer and more sustainable waste disposal ecosystem.