



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Battery Handling Safety Message

We use batteries to power our cars, trucks, tractors, forklifts, construction equipment, and power tools. There are different types of batteries. For example, a lead-acid battery usually uses sulfuric acid to create the intended reaction. Zinc-air batteries rely on oxidizing zinc with oxygen for the reaction. Potassium hydroxide is the electrolyte in common household alkaline batteries. The most common electrolyte in lithium batteries is a lithium salt solution.

Because of these chemical reactions, if you handle and recharge batteries, you should use caution and follow safe work practices.

Four Main Battery Hazards

These are the four main hazards associated with batteries:

Four Main Battery Hazards

- Acid
- Flammable gas
- Electrical shock
- Weight

Safe Battery Handling

A primary safeguard when handling batteries is utilizing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Examples include:

- Safety glasses or goggles and a face shield to protect your eyes and face from chemical splashes.
- Rubber gloves provide both acid protection and electrical resistance to prevent shocks.
- Chemical apron—your clothes and body need protection as well.
- Safety shoes or boots to protect your feet from a spill.