

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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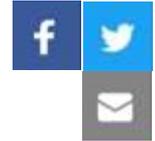
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Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Lithium battery warning

BOISE ID – A weekend fire at a BSU Robotics Lab was apparently caused by lithium batteries left on a charger, according to a preliminary investigation by the Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office and Boise Fire Department. The batteries had been unattended since 2:00 p.m. A passerby smelled smoke and reported the fire at 6:30 p.m.

"Lithium batteries should never be unattended while they are charging," says Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. "Safety should always be a prime consideration. A little extra caution goes a long way in preventing fires and injuries, especially at this time of year with the number of electronic gifts that will be given and received."

If a lithium battery becomes overcharged or overheats, it can become hazardous. Most lithium batteries have warnings printed on the labels. Cautions include short-circuiting, charging, exposing to excessive heat, crushing, puncturing, or disassembling the battery. Lithium batteries should be stored in their original containers in a dry, well-ventilated area. They should be kept apart from combustible or flammable materials.

The Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office is a division of the Idaho Department of Insurance. Consumers with questions about fire-related incidents are encouraged to contact the Idaho State Fire Marshal's office by visiting www.doi.idaho.gov or calling 334-4250 in the Boise area or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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