

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



June 24, 2025

## POTENTIAL HAZARD INVOLVING FIRE BLANKETS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES

The purpose of this Informational Bulletin (IB) is to alert departmental employees of the potential hazard of fire suppression blankets and Electric Vehicle (EV) fires. The Fire Protection Research Foundation and the Fire Safety Research Institute issued a notice around a potential hazard involving fire blankets used for EV battery fire suppression. The notice addresses a potential explosion hazard when fire blankets are used during EV battery fire suppression.

### Safety Concerns:

- During experiments involving the use of EV fire blankets to suppress an EV battery fire, it was observed that the deployment of a fire blanket eliminated flaming by denying oxygen to the vehicle and the battery fire.
- While the flaming was eliminated, battery thermal runaway continued after the fire blanket deployment, which resulted in the continued release and accumulation of flammable battery gases into the area under the blanket.
- In some of the experiments, this accumulation of flammable gases under the blankets presented an explosion risk to firefighters operating near the vehicle.
- The risk of an explosion can be increased when reintroducing air into an oxygen-depleted accumulation of unburned flammable battery gases.

Departmental employees are advised to use caution when in the vicinity of EV battery fires and the potential hazards present. Pursuant to Management Memorandum 24-063, Respiratory Protective Measures and Mandatory Deployment of Air Purifying Respirator, the departmentally issued Air Purifying Respirator (with filter canister labeled 'CBRN' [large canister]) shall be maintained and readily available by all uniformed personnel during the regular course of their duties and shall be used, when practical, in emergency response to an incident, where a potential for harmful exposure exists from hazardous materials, including car fires, especially when EV(s) are involved.



This information was obtained from the Fire Safety Research Institute. Any questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Employee Health and Wellness Section, Occupational Safety Unit, at (916) 843-3020.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 037

