



Freedom of Information Request FOI 24 03

Statistics surrounding lithium ion batteries

Query and Response:

1. How may fires have your Service attended which involved electric or Hybrid vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries between the following dates 1/1/21 – 1/11/23? **DWFRS does not record the fuel type of vehicles for all incidents as this is not a mandatory requirement. However we have searched our incident log using the terms electric vehicle and hybrid and this returned the following information: 0 for electric and 5 for Hybrid. Please note these figures may not be accurate due to the fuel type not being a mandatory recording requirement.**
2. Of these fires attended in how many of these was the cause recorded as a fault on the lithium-ion battery? **We don't record this information.**
3. Of the fires attended how many involved the lithium battery cells? **We don't record this information.**
4. Have your Service developed specific operational procedures for dealing with fires involving lithium-ion batteries? **DWFRS has operational guidance (not prescriptive procedures) for Incident Commanders developed for incidents involving batteries (general). DWFRS also has specific guidance developed from National Operational Guidance (NOG) giving in-depth information and guidance, for the various incident types (energy storage systems and vehicles) where fires involving lithium-ion batteries can occur.**
5. Have your service purchased any specific equipment/extinguishing/PPE agents to deal with fires involving lithium-ion batteries? **No, DWFRS have not purchased any specific equipment/extinguishing/PPE agents to deal with fires involving lithium-ion batteries.**
6. Does your Service provide specific training to operational crews who may be called to fires involving lithium-ion batteries? **Details of lithium ion batteries are covered within our recruit Firefighter road traffic collision (RTC) acquisition course and input is also delivered to Flexi Duty Officers as part of Officer Training . DWFRS also has RTC updates covering specific information around lithium ion batteries, as well as the National Fire Chiefs Council video footage which is also available as a training aid.**
8. Where lithium-ion batteries are involved in RTA's persons trapped, do you adopt any specific measures to isolate the potential battery ignition risk? **DWFRS use the Risk Information Tablet (RIT) and Crash Recovery System (CRS) to identify battery location and other hazard and risk information. The RIT / CRS will give guidance on how to isolate batteries within electric vehicles**



9. Have your Service initiated any specific information gathering exercise on fires attended involving lithium ion batteries? **DWFRS have not undertaken any specific information gathering but we are in the process of reviewing our risk assessments through our NOG team and developing standard operating procedures.**

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 24, January 2024