

Fire Incident Survey Results 4/9/18

Over the last few years, CPSC received reports of fires at waste management facilities caused by batteries, specifically lithium ion batteries. It was obvious that something needed to be done as the frequency of these battery related fire reports increased. Fires at waste and recycling facilities can be costly and put the workers at risk. CPSC sent out a short survey to gather information on fires at waste management facilities. The goal of the survey was to find out which types of batteries were causing the most fires and some of the impacts of fires.

The survey had 26 respondents from waste facilities all over California, including northern and southern counties, as well as rural and urban. Of all responses, **83% reported having a fire at their facility** in the last two years. When asked to identify the source of the reported fires, 65% of the reported fires were due to batteries. The figure below shows the breakdown of reported fire sources, which emphasizes that **lithium ion batteries are the largest source of reported fires.**

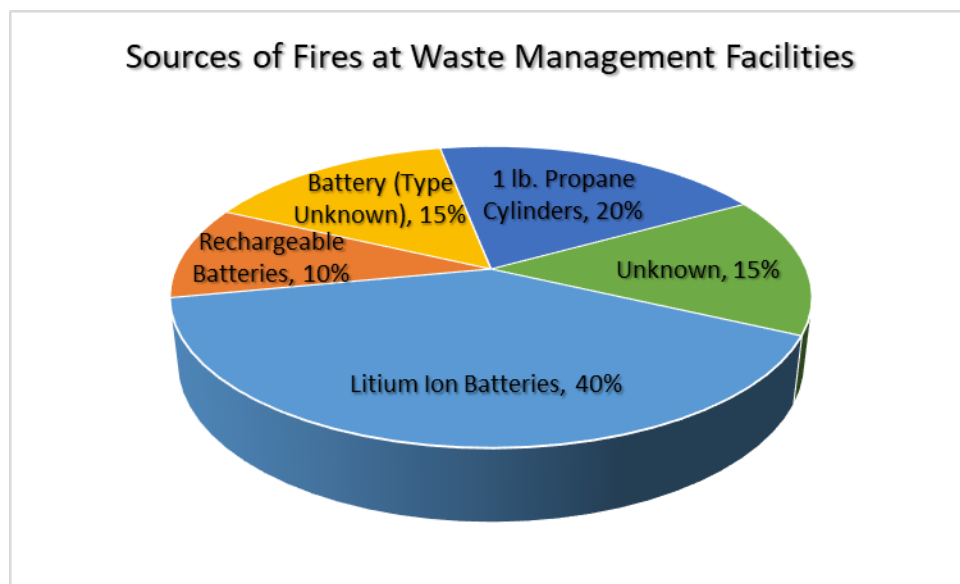


Figure 1. Reported sources of fires at waste/recycling facilities from a survey of CPSC stakeholders

The results of this survey are in-line with what we have read and heard from others in the industry which indicate **an increase in battery related fires.** Again, lithium ion batteries were the most frequent battery to cause fires. Other reported sources of fires in order of most to least frequent included combustibles (aerosols, butane cans), chemicals, hot ashes, and talking greetings cards.