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Dear Park East Square Homeowners,

Lithium-ion batteries are now common in our daily lives—powering phones, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, scooters, and home energy storage systems. While these batteries are efficient and powerful, they also present **serious fire and safety risks** if misused, damaged, or improperly discarded. Awareness and responsible handling are essential to protecting our homes, families, and community.

### Why Lithium-Ion Batteries Are Dangerous

Lithium-ion batteries store large amounts of energy in a small space. If they are damaged, overheated, overcharged, exposed to water, or manufactured improperly, they can enter *thermal runaway*—a rapid, uncontrollable reaction that may cause **fires, explosions, and toxic gas release**. These fires burn extremely hot, spread quickly, and are difficult to extinguish with conventional firefighting methods.

### Safe Use and Storage

- Use only manufacturer-approved chargers and follow charging instructions.
- Never charge batteries **unattended**, overnight, or near flammable materials.
- Discontinue use of any battery that is swollen, leaking, overheating, or damaged.
- Store batteries in cool, dry areas away from direct sunlight or heat sources.
- Do not modify batteries or use non-certified replacement packs.

### Proper Disposal Is Critical

Lithium-ion batteries **must never be placed in household trash or recycling bins**. Improper disposal is a leading cause of fires in garbage and waste facilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies lithium-ion batteries as **universal waste** and requires proper recycling through approved programs. Residents should use designated battery recycling centers, household hazardous waste facilities, or certified retailer take-back programs.

### Community Responsibility

As a shared-wall and closely spaced community, a single battery fire can impact multiple homes. Responsible ownership, proper disposal, and early reporting of unsafe conditions help prevent catastrophic loss and protect first responders.

All residents should review their devices, charging habits, and battery disposal practices, and ensure smoke detectors are installed, tested regularly, and properly maintained. Battery safety is not optional and is a shared responsibility.



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| Arizona  | Idaho    | Kansas    | Nevada       | South Dakota | Wisconsin |
| Colorado | Illinois | Minnesota | North Dakota | Texas        | Wyoming   |
| Florida  | Indiana  | Missouri  | Ohio         | Utah         |           |
| Georgia  | Iowa     | Nebraska  | Oregon       | Washington   |           |