



Fire Safety Advisory 2019-2: 9 Volt Battery Fires



On August 2, 2019 the fire department in Mount Olive, NJ extinguished a small house fire that appeared to have been caused by two 9 Volt batteries being in close contact with each other (pictured above). According to the National Fire Protection Association, 9-volt batteries can become dangerous if the positive and negative posts are close together or if a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery. Improper connection of the positive and negative posts can cause a short circuit which can make enough heat to start a fire. Even weak 9 Volt batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

SAFETY TIPS

- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them.
- If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape.
- Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep batteries someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- Store batteries standing up.
- 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries.
- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.