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ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE GARCIA AND CONGRESSMAN OBERNOLTE WITH AN IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL VIDEO OF A LITHIUM-ION FIRE INCIDENT OCCURRING ON JULY 9, 2024

FROM: Ruth Brock <actontakesaction@att.net>  
TO: Chase Hite <chase.hite@mail.house.gov>,  
Jacqueline Owens <jacqueline.owens@mail.house.gov>

SUBJECT: Important Informational Video on Lithium-ion Fire incident 7/9/24

Hello Chase,

I hope you are well.

I wanted to share this important informational video with you and ultimately with Congressman Garcia and Congressman Obernolte.

Thank you,

Ruthie Brock  
Acton Takes Action Community Task Force

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Dear Congressman Garcia and Congressman Obernolte,

Thank you for your efforts to bring attention to the dangers posed by lithium-ion batteries in both EVs, micro-mobility devices and utility scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in America.

I would like to share a very informative video with you both.

These two firefighter experts in the attached video are involved with education in HAZMAT responses. This particular video specifically deals with the transporting of dangerous lithium-ion batteries and the dangers they presented to first responders during the incident and multiple reignitions over the following days.

The issues brought to light in this video are:

- 1) The lack of federal regulations for there to be hazard placards on the tractor trailers that are transporting the batteries to clearly notify first responders of the contents within.
- 2) The extreme lack of education for our first responders in proper suppression methods for each type of situation.
- 3) The lack of communication protocols between agencies when outside assistance is necessary.
- 4) The lack of education for tow companies as well as fire departments on the probability for a lithium-ion fire to reignite.

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While my focus has been 100% on lithium-based batteries and their risks to residents in Battery Storage (BESS) deployments over this past 15 months, I am also from a fire family.

My husband served with LACounty Fire Dept for 30 years as a Firefighter Specialist and served 7 of those years in HAZMAT.

My son is an active duty Fire Captain serving with Visalia City Fire Dept in Central CA.

I don't understand why government has not stepped in to regulate these dangerous batteries that are permeating every aspect of our lives.

There are alternative battery technologies that would eliminate ALL of this risk to first responders and American consumers! They can replace lithium-based batteries in utility scale deployment and I'm certain any other lesser-size application.

The strain this battery technology will put on our fire departments physically and financially will be astronomical. All the specialized training required, special equipment, extra bunker gear, the extra man-hours and resources dispatched for these type incidents — and the additional health risks they will no doubt be paying for as a higher percentage of their personnel fall victim to cancers.

The long-term toxic threat to our environment is tragic and unforgivable.

Every lithium-based battery, no matter how small, must be recycled to capture the critical minerals that would otherwise release toxic chemicals into our landfills. These toxins would eventually make their way to groundwater, fresh water wells and American water faucets in their homes. And the toxins would no doubt eventually make their way to our oceans in time. These batteries also are a fire risk if they end up in our landfills.

Our citizens have not been properly educated on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries in their EVs, their micro-mobility devices, their cell phones, their laptops, notebooks, iPads, tools, kids toys and all of their battery-powered rechargeable household appliances and devices. They aren't familiar with the proper charging, handling and ultimate disposing of lithium-ion powered products.

We can make all the effort in the world to educate people and to recycle these dangerous batteries but we will never be able to eliminate ALL of the risk — and that risk is substantial.

Someone just has to put their foot down and say "No more!"

We can do better.

Ruthie Brock  
Acton, CA

(Video Link on next page...)

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Washington DDR Battery Fire: Hazmat Insights on Explosion Hazard

Video Released by StacheD Training on July 16, 2024



Youtube Link – <https://youtu.be/q2toqzqSaUI?si=rnox6YhrkP5VBpE>