



MEDIA RELEASE

From the
**YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**

October 1, 2025

York County Department of Fire and Life Safety to Celebrate Fire Prevention Week with an Open House on Sat., October 11, 2025

The theme for Fire Prevention Week™, October 5–11, 2025, is “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.”

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to promote this year’s FPW campaign, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.” The campaign highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that’s rechargeable uses this type of battery.

If not used correctly or if damaged, these batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode. To reduce these risks, look around your home and recognize which devices are powered by them.

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the department is holding an **Open House** on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Fire Station #1 (Grafton), 118 Dare Road. Join us for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. Explore the fire station and tour the various fire trucks. Meet your local firefighters and learn about fire safety. Enjoy free refreshments while you visit and learn about lithium-ion batteries. Members of the York-Poquoson Sheriff’s Office will be present to chat about other aspects of neighborhood safety.

Here are some safety tips when purchasing items that use lithium-ion batteries:

Buy only listed products

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the

packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.

- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices safely

- Always use the cables that came with the product to charge it. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety encourages all residents to be aware of their devices, follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach, and support this year's FPW theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™."

Visit the department's website—www.yorkcounty.gov/fire—for Fire Prevention Week (FPW) information. Also, click over to the Facebook page—www.facebook.com/yorkcountyfire—every day for FPW messages to help you stay safe.

For more information about the department's activities, please call 757-890-3600.