



TOOLBOX TALKS

Toolbox Talks are informal group discussions that focus on particular safety issues. These talks are used to promote your company's safety culture and heighten employee awareness of workplace hazards and safety regulations, to improve safety performance and accident prevention.

EACH TALK WOULD BE 1.5 - 2 HOURS IN DURATION.

YOU CAN CHOOSE ONE TOPIC OR THE OPTION OF CHOOSING A PACKAGE DEAL, WHERE MULTIPLE TOPICS CAN BE PRESENTED OVER AN AGREED TIME FRAME.



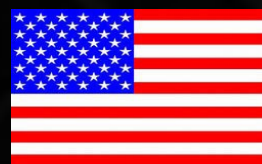
Access Compliance is a full-service agency devoted to assisting the safety and health programs of all entities involved in commerce to provide a safe and healthy environment for their employees.

**We are proud to be certified
in New York State as a**

- **New York State Woman Owned Business Enterprise, NYSWOBE #53310**
- **National Women's Business Enterprise, WBENC #2005121673**
- **Woman Owned Small Business WOSB #180165**

**For information about our services call:
518-782-2200**

info@accesscompliance.net



Veteran Owned Business





As we approach the holidays, it's especially important to keep safety in mind.

Lithium Batteries, which are found in so many products we buy and use on a daily basis, can be a potential hazard. Knowing how to handle them safely can be a lifesaver.

[We have a toolbox talk to address this very issue.](#)

LITHIUM BATTERIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY; WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rick Foster, EHS Professional, Access Compliance, LLC

Lithium battery use is growing rapidly, along with their use in electric vehicles (EVs). Lithium battery use is expanding at a very rapid pace and affecting our daily lives in both a positive and productive way, however, when there are new technical advances in our lives, the mass production advances will always outpace the safety, health, and environmental impacts.

Some examples of these new products from our history include the use of lead, asbestos, mercury, PFAS, fluoride, talc, tobacco, etc. Most of these examples have an even greater impact when they are involved in an extreme heat (Fire) environment. Lithium batteries are no exception to this impact and are now a part of this list of examples.

About 90% of all power tools sold at Big Box Stores are now powered by lithium batteries. All cell phones, e-cigarettes, laptop computers, medical devices, bicycles, and EV's, use lithium batteries; with the list growing daily. Of these products now using lithium-based batteries, the one that is increasingly posing a serious impact to our firefighters is the use in EVs. The share of electric cars in total sales has increased from around 4% in 2020, to 18% in 2023. EV sales are expected to continue strongly through 2024 and 2025. Over 3 million electric cars were sold in the first quarter of 2024; about 25% more than in the same period last year. With this high volume of EV sales, the frequency of EV battery fires has significantly increased as well.

Most EV fires were from the result of over-charging batteries and vehicle accidents involving physical damage directly to the batteries. The number of new charging locations such as personal home and public charging stations, is also increasing quickly. Potential fire hazards and locations have not either been addressed, assessed, or communicated to the local fire departments, and where these stations exist have not been addressed in their existing Emergency Action Plans (EAPs).

There is still much research currently underway on how to fight and control a lithium-based battery fire. Due to the extreme heat and toxic exposure from a lithium-based battery fire, local fire departments may not be aware of potential health and safety exposures while responding to a fire event, whether at a home or public EV charging station.

