

BATTERY CHARGING

All workers should be aware of the types of batteries in use or being stored at the job site, how to handle them properly (if that is part of their job), how to recognize the dangers, and what to do with a defective battery.

Hazards associated with batteries and battery chargers while in use, handling, in storage, or the battery is charging include:

- overheating
- fire or explosion
- electrical shock from battery chargers
- thermal burns
- exposure to alkaline battery electrolytes
- overexertion injuries from handling heavy batteries



OSHA Standard 1926.441(b)(1) *Battery charging installations shall be located in areas designated for that purpose.*

Only charge batteries in the designated charging area. This will make it easier to control ventilation and ensure there is safety equipment within reach.

- Safety equipment should be readily available in battery charging, handling, and storage areas and may include a fire extinguisher, eyewash station, and neutralization materials.
- Battery chargers must be protected from collisions, including impacts from forklifts.
- Precautions must be taken to prevent all ignition sources in battery areas including open flames, sparks, or electric arcs.
- Smoking is prohibited in the charging area.
- Keep tools and other metallic objects, including jewelry, away from the top of uncovered batteries.
- There must be adequate ventilation provided to the battery storage areas.

Discussion

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Currently, how are battery charging areas protected from collisions or other damage?

Is there only one area for battery charging, or are there multiple charging stations?