

Vehicle Battery Fire

LEAD ACID BATTERIES

Summary of the incident

There was a recent incident involving a fire in a City of Doncaster Council Ford Transit-type van while was being driven on the highway to the employees next work task.

Key facts

- Two lead acid batteries located beneath the driver's seat, which power the van's tail-lift, were involved in the incident.
- The battery cover had become dislodged - and metal items of equipment appear to have come contact with the battery terminals. This likely caused electrical arcing, which subsequently ignited the fire.



Why is this being shared

The Council and other partner organisations use Ford Transit-type Pick-Ups and variants that are fitted with double batteries located in the vehicle cabs. Sharing this information help us all ensure

- **Battery storage compartments/boxes are kept free of any other items.**
- **Battery storage compartments need to be kept secure at all times.**
- **Vehicle cab cleaning and housekeeping is and remains a priority.**
- **Adequate storage should be fitted to all vehicles.**

Immediate actions for management review and revise:

- Daily vehicle pre-inspection
- Staff toolbox talks
- Spot checks on vehicles
- Additional storage
- Risk assessments
- Welfare checks
- Lone working

Actions for all employees that drive these types of vehicles

- Regular housekeeping
- Reporting concerns/Issues
- Reporting damage



Support

If any employee has concerns about

- the safety of any battery (lead acid or other) in any vehicle or the battery
- any sign of physical damage to a battery or is not secure
- any incident involving a battery please report them to your line manager.

Managers should report any significant concerns, damage to batteries and ensure any incident is fully investigated by Fleet Management and ensure there is a completed investigation on the Council's incident reporting application.

Corporate Safety & Training

01302 736903

safety@doncaster.gov.uk



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Doncaster
Council