City of Iqaluit
100-1085 Mivvik Street
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 3H0

Public Service Announcement

Garbage Truck Fire – Battery Safety Reminder

November 18, 2026 – Iqaluit, Nunavut

The City of Iqaluit would like to share an important reminder about the safe disposal of batteries and how small actions can help protect our community.

Earlier today, a City garbage truck caught fire shortly after collecting waste near Tundra Buddies Daycare. Crews responded quickly by unloading the waste onto the roadway to prevent the situation from escalating. Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

While the exact cause of the fire has not been confirmed, improperly disposed of lithium-ion batteries are suspected to have contributed to the incident.

Why is proper battery disposal important?

Lithium-ion batteries are found in many everyday items, including cellphones, rechargeable tools, toys, and other electronic devices. While safe when used and handled properly, these batteries can become dangerous when damaged or compressed.

Inside a garbage truck, waste is compacted under significant pressure. If a lithium-ion battery is crushed or damaged, it can overheat, catch fire, or even explode.

How can residents help?

Residents are encouraged to keep household batteries separate from their regular garbage and bring them directly to the City landfill for safe disposal. **There is no charge to dispose of household batteries at the landfill.**

Taking this simple step helps reduce the risk of fires and protects the waste collection crews who provide an essential service to our community.

The City thanks its crews for their quick response and residents for their continued efforts to keep Iqaluit safe.

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For additional information, please contact:

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