

Safety Briefing

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Col James H. Kasler Senior Squadron

Civil Air Patrol

GLR-IN-069

Safety Briefing Topics

- Common Sense and the Common Cold:
Some good reminders about keeping things (bugs) to yourself
- Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices:
The FAA issued a “SAFO”, which, though intended specifically for airlines, could be a hazard on our flights since we carry various “PEDs” including laptop computers, digital cameras, flashlights, and headsets
- National Preparedness Month

Common Sense and the Common Cold

The following is taken from page 13 of *IA Wing's Safety Officer's Briefing Book*, by Douglas Tindal

The common cold, and its cousin the flu bug, can make life miserable for several days. These diseases are so normal and widespread that we frequently don't give prevention much thought.

Though most people take for granted the fact that they probably will have to endure the symptoms a couple of times a year, it cannot do any harm for us to be more alert so we don't contract the "bug" so often, and spread it to others.

Consider at least the following common sense responsibility items.

Common Sense and the Common Cold

(continued)

- *Eat right, get enough sleep, and wear appropriate clothing.*
- *Stay home, if you can, for the first couple of days, so you are less likely to spread the "bug" to others.*
- *Try medications that suppress the symptoms. This will reduce the amount of airborne droplets you send into someone else's air.*
- *Use the telephone to communicate with others when you are most symptomatic, to keep from spreading your problem.*

Common Sense and the Common Cold

(continued)

- *Do not shake hands. Your explanation will be appreciated more than your germs.*
- *Wash your hands often.*
- *Always cover your face when coughing or sneezing.*
- *See your doctor if symptoms seem odd or last too long.*

Common Sense and the Common Cold

(continued)

Along with the above, remember the IMSAFE protocol for CAP flights.

If you are not feeling well, don't fly. Cold viruses, stuffy heads, and airplanes don't mix!

Pilots especially, remember especially that cold medicines and airplane PICs definitely don't mix!!!

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

The following is taken from the Safety Alert For Operators, SAFO 09013, dated 6/23/09.

Subject:

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

Purpose:

To recommend procedures for fighting fires caused by lithium type batteries in portable electronic devices (PED).

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

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Background:

- *The two types of batteries commonly used to power consumer PEDs brought on aircraft are lithium batteries (disposable) and lithium-ion batteries (rechargeable). Both these types are capable of ignition and subsequent explosion due to overheating.*
- *Overheating results in thermal runaway, which can cause the release of either molten burning lithium or a flammable electrolyte.*
- *Once one cell in a battery pack goes into thermal runaway, it produces enough heat to cause adjacent cells to go into thermal runaway. The resulting fire can flare repeatedly as each cell ruptures and releases its contents.*

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

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Discussion:

- *Based on testing by the Fire Safety Branch of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Center, the following procedures are recommended for fighting a fire of a lithium-type-battery powered PED.*
- *The procedures consist of two phases: (1) extinguishing the fire, and (2) cooling the remaining cells to stop thermal runaway.*

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

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(1) Utilize a Halon, Halon replacement or water extinguisher to extinguish the fire and prevent its spread to additional flammable materials.

(2) After extinguishing the fire, douse the device with water or other non-alcoholic liquids to cool the device and prevent additional battery cells from reaching thermal runaway.

- **WARNING:** *Do not attempt to pick up and move a smoking or burning device! Bodily injury may result.*
- **WARNING:** *Do not cover the device or use ice to cool the device. Ice or other materials insulate the device, increasing the likelihood that additional battery cells will reach thermal runaway.*

Fighting Fires Caused By Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices

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Reference Materials:

The following are additional information related to lithium-type battery fires:

Additional information on lithium-type battery fires may be found by clicking on this link:

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/media/2009/SAFO09013SUP.pdf

The FAA has developed a training video to demonstrate effective techniques for fighting lithium-type battery fires. See the Video on Laptop Battery Fires at

<http://www.fire.tc.faa.gov/2007Conference/proceedings.asp>

Click on the “Training Videos” link on the lower right of the page.

National Preparedness Month

Please review the website pages listed on the CAP National website and the emails that have been sent out from National HQ and Wing HQ in regards to National Preparedness Month.

The information on the national website can be found at:

http://www.capmembers.com/emergency_services/national_preparedness_month.cfm

September 2009 Code Word

Extinguish