

Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) Meeting
September 16, 2025 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.
EHS Training Room & Zoom
OPEN FORUM

AGENDA

1. Introductions (3:00 – 3:05 p.m.) Martha Morton
2. Open Forum (3:05 – 3:15 p.m.)
3. Old Business
 - A. Update on Plan Ahead project (3:15 – 3:20 p.m.) Sandi Overkamp
 - B. Other Old Business (3:20 – 3:25 p.m.)
4. New Business
 - A. Emergency Planning & Preparedness (3:25 – 3:30) Abby Schletzbaum
 - B. Splinter Lab Battery Fire (3:30 – 3:45) Rick Campos/Alan Boldt
 - C. Other new business (3:45 – 3:50 p.m.)
5. Reminder of next meeting & Adjourn Martha Morton

Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026 (EHS training room, Warehouse 1, East Campus and Zoom)

- November 18, 2025 (this is not Thanksgiving Week)
(Injury/Illness report July-September 2025)
- January 20, 2026 (Injury/Illness report October-December 2025)
- March 24, 2026 (4th Tuesday to avoid spring break) - Open Forum
- May 19, 2026 (Injury/Illness report January-March 2026)
- July 21, 2026 (Injury/Illness report April-June 2026)

Goal FY 2025-2026:

Develop, review, and maintain lines of safety communication while fostering a culture of safety awareness, where everyone is encouraged to report “near misses” and unsafe practices. Use safety reports as lessons learned to share anonymously throughout the university to prevent reoccurrences/similar incidents.

Chancellor's University Safety Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2025
OPEN FORUM
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The September meeting was convened by Chair Martha Morton at 3:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves by name and the department/facility they represent.

Members In Attendance: Rick Campos (FP&C Fire Inspector), Diane Pinkerton (Sheldon Museum of Art), Darren Johnson (ENREEC), Samantha Link (ARD Plant Facility), Mike Livingston (Agronomy & Horticulture), Barb McCain (Dining Svcs), Deb Royal (Vet Diagnostic), Brent Morgan (Libraries), Max Wheeler (Engrg Design Hub), Xiaoshan Xu (Physics & Astronomy), Lindsey Chizinski (SNR), Abby Schletzbaum (UNLPD), Zhiguang (Zach) Sun (NCMN), and TJ Bond for Brenda Osthus (EHS).

OPEN FORUM

Rick Campos told the group that plans are pending for all buildings on campus to conduct an evacuation/fire drill. This required campus-wide initiative will be facilitated by Justus Foged, EHS, Assistant Director for Operations Compliance. Individual departments/buildings may be performing annual fire drills already, but a campus-wide recording and monitoring program is required by the fire code.

Martha Morton suggested that purchase of AEDs by the university be considered for long range planning. Abby Schletzbaum volunteered to check for grants

OLD BUSINESS

Sandi Overkamp and Deb Royal, assisted by Elizabeth Howe, CUSC liaison, have been working on developing ideas for an entirely new set of Plan Ahead graphics. Elizabeth will facilitate the process with UCOMM.

There was no other old business

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Abby Scheletzbaum reminded the group about unlreport.unl.edu for anonymously reporting concerns of general security, grounds issues such as potholes or lights burned out, and basically anything of concern.

Abby apprised the group of swatting at other universities. Swatting is the situation where someone calls in a false threat report. There are some ways the UNL PD has to identify potential swatting. Members were advised that if their department receives a threatening phone call, if possible, record the call, keep the person on the line while calling 911 or the UNL PD from a location out of earshot of the caller, pay attention to any background noises that might assist identification. The Police Department has a trained threat assessment team.

A question was raised about SWAT presence on the roof of Hamilton Hall on the last game day. Abby indicated that, in line with other Big 10 universities, UNL has begun a more robust police presence on game days. Martha Morton suggested that, if police were to be stationed on the roof of a building, the building BMR/administration be notified as there was concern by Hamilton Hall occupants about the sudden presence of police on the roof.

If there are any questions about what officers are doing on campus, the party concerned can call UNL PD dispatch to ask. If there is an immediate threat to campus, a UNL Alert will be issued.

Resource

The topic, "Splinter Lab Battery Fire" was presented by Rick Campos. A PDF of the presentation is included with these Minutes.

Other New Business

Elizabeth Howe informed the group that the annual Wellness and Campus Resource Fair has been set for October 21, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Coliseum. The CUSC traditionally participates but would need to decide as to whether to again staff a booth. The group voted to have a booth at this event. Elizabeth will facilitate filling of time slots by sending an email to the CUSC listserv and will provide handouts and talking points for those staffing the booth.

CLOSING REMARKS

Martha Morton, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2025.

Splinter Lab: Lithium Battery Fire

Rick Campos, NU Systems Fire Inspector

9/16/2025



TYPES OF LITHIUM BATTERIES:

****LITHIUM-ION***

****LITHIUM POLYMER***

Li-Ion Batteries



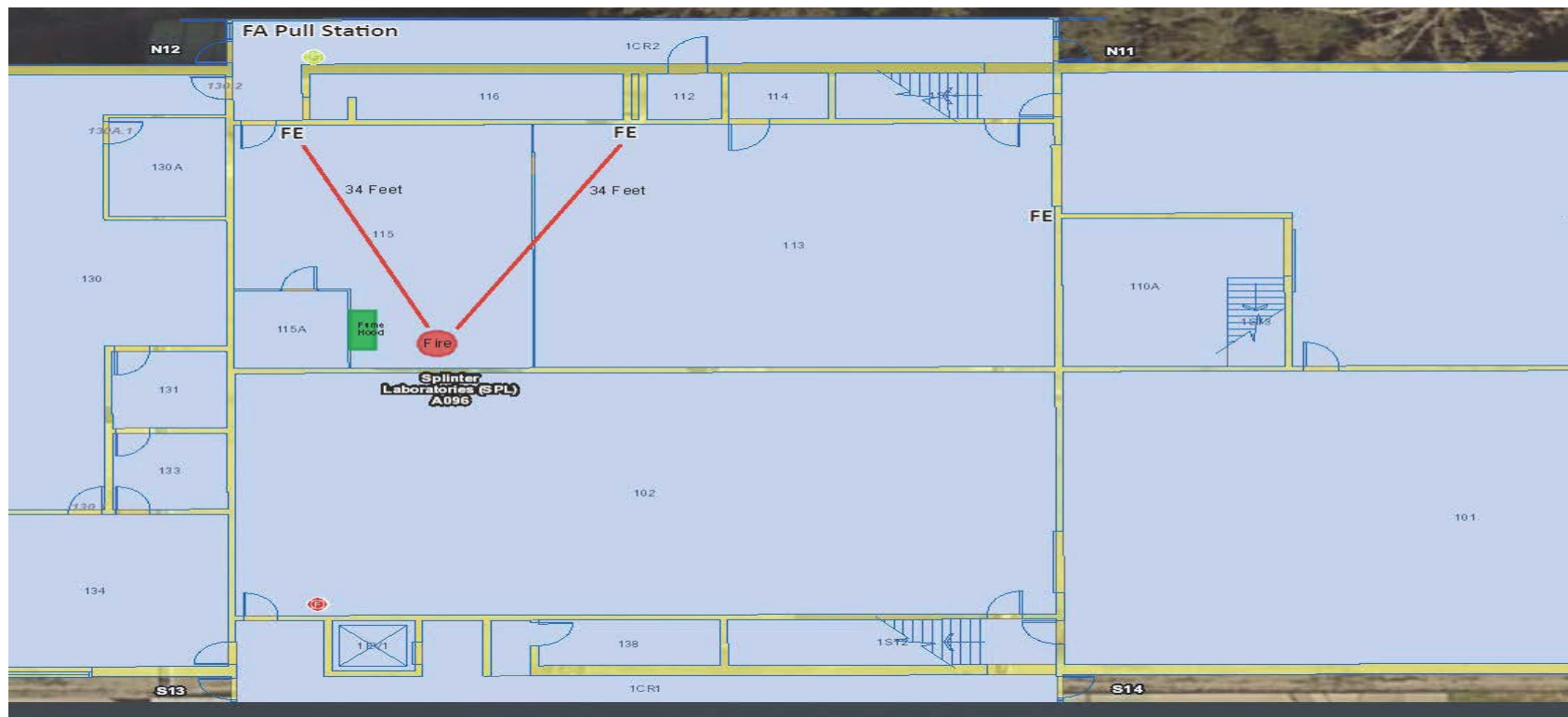
- Electrolyte: Liquid electrolyte.
- Form Factor: Typically, cylindrical (AA, 18650).
- Energy Density: Generally higher than Li-Po, meaning they can store more energy for a given size and weight.
- Safety: Often considered safer due to their metal casing, which helps contain potential thermal runaway or fires.
- Applications: Laptops, smartphones, electric vehicles, power tools

Li-Po Batteries



- Electrolyte: Solid or gel-like polymer electrolyte.
- Form Factor: Flexible, pouch shaped, allowing for a diverse and compact design.
- Energy Density: Slightly lower than Li-ion, but with higher power density.
- Safety: Can be more prone to swelling or catching fire if not handled properly.
- Applications: Drones, RC Vehicles, wearables, some mobile devices.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
System



Background

- Occurred on 6/12/25.
- Splinter Lab, #115.
- Graduate Student was charging a Zeee Lithium Polymer Battery.



Background

- Battery was “swollen” prior to changing per Graduate Student.
- 45-60 mins after charging began, unusual sounds heard at charging area.

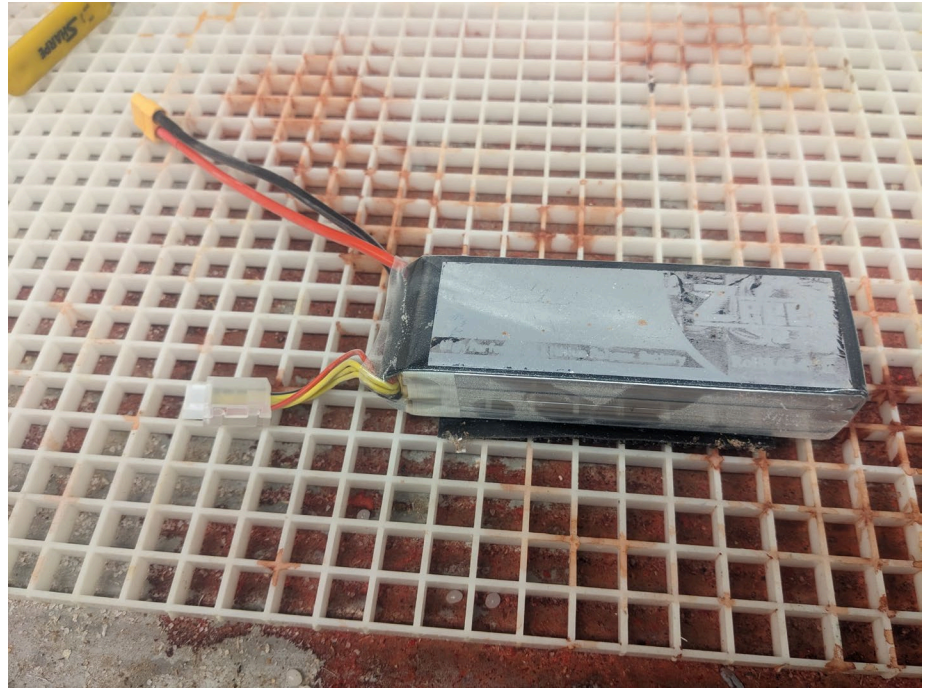


Background

- Battery case had ruptured and was leaking a liquid.
- 2-3 minutes later visible sparks, then quickly started on fire.



Battery Charging



Battery Charging

- One set of wires charges the individual battery packs.
- One set of wires analyzes cells within the battery and charges them to the same voltage, preventing the overcharging of some cells while others are still charging.

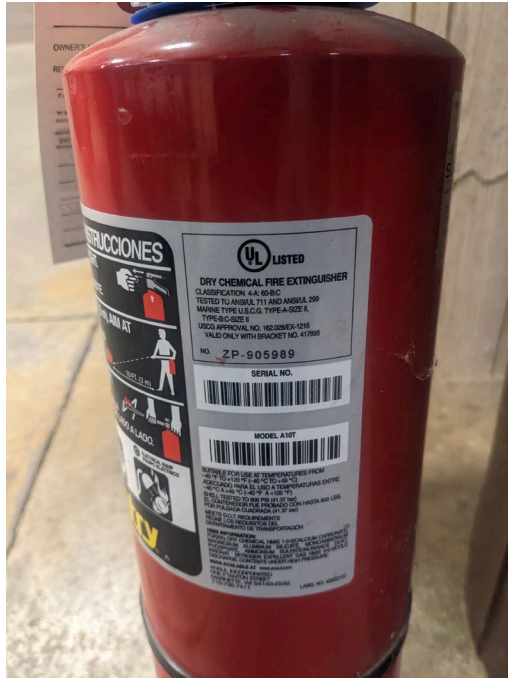
Fire Scene



Fire Scene



ABC Fire Extinguisher Used



Conclusions

- Failure to acknowledge signs of a damaged Lipo battery (Swelling of battery body)
- Failure to connect the Balance Tap leads to the charger for voltage/cell monitoring.

Conclusion

- Failure to alter building occupants of a fire by manually pulling the fire alarm pull station.



QUESTIONS?