

WARNING!



Vaporizer Device Causes Injuries To Soldier

An Active Duty Soldier sustained burn injuries from an (e-cigarette) vaporizer device explosion in their pocket. At the time of the incident, the vaporizer device was in the right cargo pocket. The Soldier was sitting down and began to smell something burning. As the Soldier stood up the vaporizer device exploded, resulting in serious injury to the Soldiers upper leg and clothing catching fire. In the process of removing the clothing, the Soldier also suffered burns to the hands. While it's not clear why the device exploded, faulty lithium batteries or misuse of the device are primary causes in most documented cases. It is believed that while sitting the Soldier's keys in the same pocket may have activated the device causing it to overheat and explode.



Key points in Electronic Cigarette Fires and Explosions:

- Most of the incidents occur while the battery is charging.
- Lithium-ion batteries must be charged in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Using power sources not approved by the manufacturer to recharge a lithium-ion battery can result in an explosion and fire.

Reference:

U.S. Fire Administration (2014), *Electronic Cigarette Fires and Explosions*. FEMA. https://www.usfa.fema.gov/.../publications/electronic_cigarettes.pdf

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