
Welcome!

Downtown Safety Forum

Thursday, July 17, 2025



**DOWN
AUSTIN TOWN
ALLIANCE**

- Announcements
- Downtown crime trends and safety initiatives – APD Cdr. Carey Chaudoir
- Fire Prevention & Lithium Ion battery safety – Scott Stookey, Austin Fire Dpt.
- Upcoming Events and Conventions
- Open Q&A

Today's Agenda

**DOWN
AUSTINTOWN
ALLIANCE**

Recent Flooding Events

For information on flood recover resources, road closures, debris/damage clean-up, donations and volunteering:

<https://adrn.org/centraltexasflood/>

<https://www.austintexas.gov/recovery>

<https://flood-impacts-july-2025-traviscountytexas.hub.arcgis.com>



**Austin Police
Department**

Downtown Austin Alliance July 2025

Commander Carey Chaudoir

July 17, 2025

Introduction to New DTAC Commander

- Carey Chaudoir
- Experience:
 - 23 Years with the Austin Police Department
 - Served in:
 - Northeast Patrol
 - Northwest Patrol
 - Investigations
- Approach:
 - Collaborate with all agencies, stakeholders and community members through a multidisciplinary approach.
 - Emphasize evidence-based strategies to make the Downtown Austin area a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

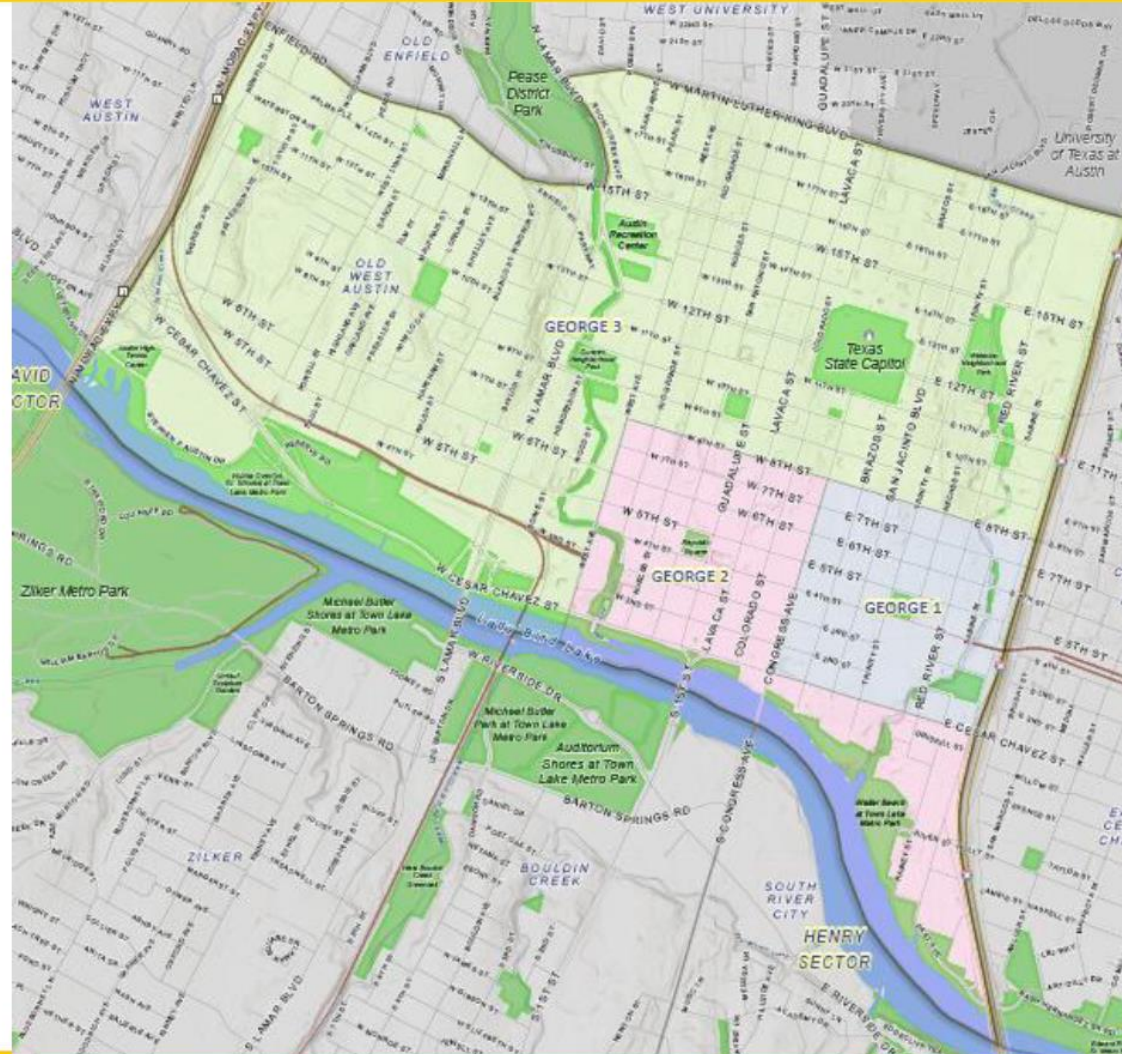


Crime Overview for DTAC over past Year

- This information will provide insight into priority areas our team will focus on to improve safety in downtown Austin.
- Note: APD Jurisdictional boundaries for DTAC differ from the DAA PID boundaries.



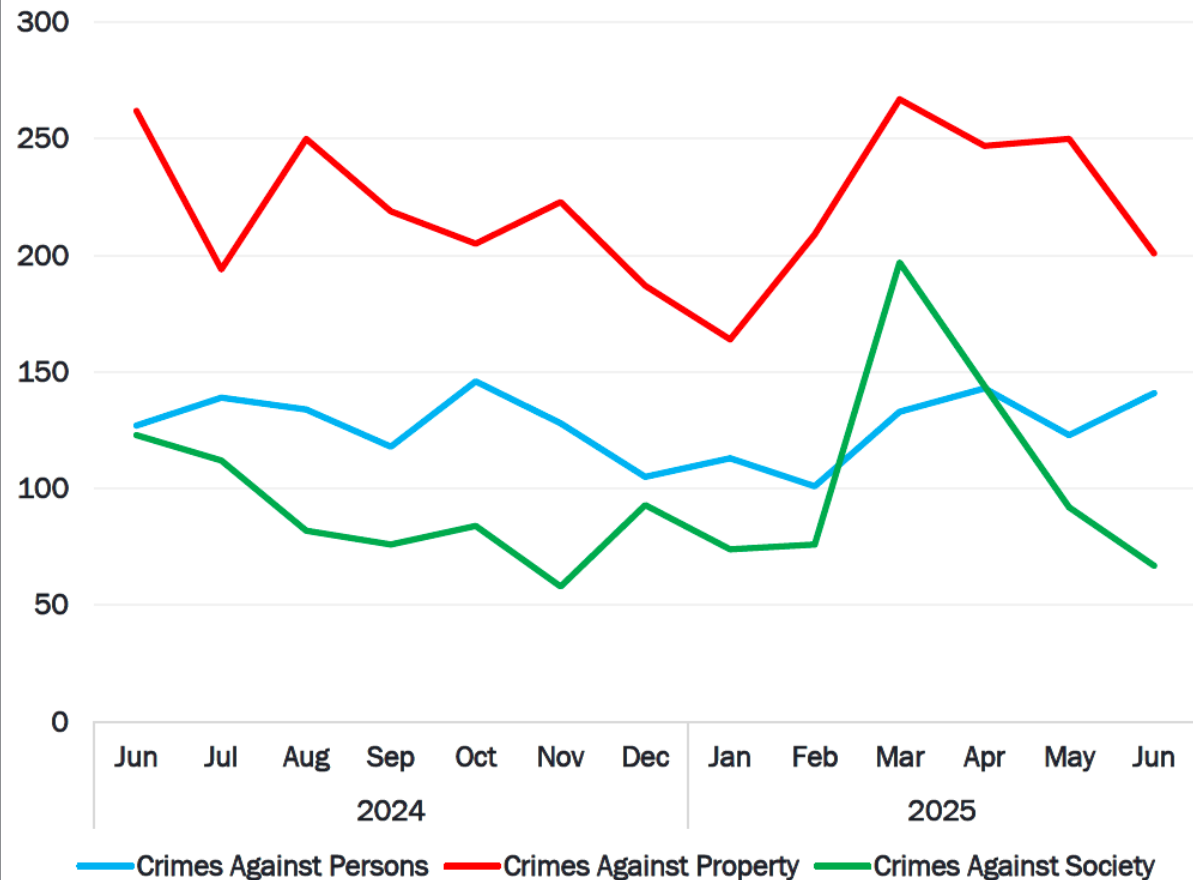
Austin Police DTAC Map



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OVERVIEW: JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

CRIME CATEGORIES: JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025



DURING JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

About half of activity reported in George Sector are Crimes Against Property.

For all three categories, data appears to trend relatively steadily – staying within an expected range – until around January 2025, when a general decline across all three can be observed. From there, data begins trending upwards, and peaks for Crimes Against Property and Society in March 2025. This is likely the effect of SXSW and the coinciding increase in police presence and enforcement. Since March 2025, data for all three categories appear to have returned to their “normal” ranges.

As of June 2025...

- Crimes Against Persons shows to be trending normally as it did in 2024
- Crimes Against Property appears to be lower in June 2025 than in June 2024
- Crimes Against Society appears to be lower in June 2025 than in June 2024



CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS: JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Simple Assault

Intimidation

Aggravated Assault

Simple Assaults account for **over 60%** of all reported Crimes Against Persons.

Data indicates a slight increase in reports for simple assaults in June 2025 compared to June 2024. This may be due to increased officers in the streets recently, compared to last year.

Data for intimidation and aggravated assaults appear to be trending normally.

“Hot” areas are the Republic Square Park area and the general E 5th – E 8th / Brazos – Red River area.

In addition, it is worth considering the potential for seasonal fluctuations across overall activity with the summer season. Opportunity for criminal activity may increase as the level of persons in the downtown area increases (*discussed on last slide*).



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CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY: JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Theft: All Other Larceny

Destruction / Damage / Vandalism

Theft: Pocket Picking

These account for **about 60%** of all reported Crimes Against Property activity.

Data for pocket picking ebbs and flows over the past 12 months, but a decrease by almost half is observed in June 2025 compared to June 2024.

Data for theft: all other larceny and destruction / damage appear to be trending normally.

“Hot” areas are the Republic Square Park area and the downtown entertainment areas.

In addition, it is worth considering the potential for seasonal fluctuations across overall activity with the summer season. Opportunity for criminal activity may increase as the level of persons in the downtown area increases (*discussed on last slide*).



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CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY: JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

*Drug / Narcotic Violations**

*Drug / Equipment Violations**

Weapon Law Violations

Narcotic Violations make up **a little over half** of all reported Crimes Against Society.

For drug-related activity, elevated numbers likely reflect, largely, an increase in enforcement and officer proactivity versus an increase in criminal activity.

Data for weapons law violations show a notable decrease in June 2025 compared to June 2024.

“Hot” areas are the Republic Square Park area and the general 400-600 Blocks E 5th – E 7th Streets.

In addition, it is worth considering the potential for seasonal fluctuations across overall activity with the summer season. Opportunity for criminal activity may increase as the level of persons in the downtown area increases (*discussed on last slide*).



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* “Narcotics” may be possession of marijuana. “Equipment” may be possession of a pipe.

SEASONAL NOTE

Summer months may see an increase in persons visiting / passing thru George sector. As such, increases in activity may be observed.

- For example, vehicle victimization may increase slightly in areas along the Lake and near outdoor activity / Hike & Bike trails.
 - Some encouragements local businesses and/or the community can share with visitors may be...
 1. Make sure vehicles are locked when leaving it unattended
 2. Remove keys from the vehicle when leaving it unattended
 3. Roll windows up when leaving the vehicle unattended
 4. Items of value are hidden or not kept inside the vehicle
- **IF** reporting vehicle victimization – be as specific as possible with location, possible occurred time, and mode of vehicle entry (if known)
 - This allows Patrol efforts and placement to be as targeted as possible



Internal Reorganization

- Department wide patrol reallocation
 - DARRT significantly reduced from 4 Sergeants and 36 Detectives and to 1 Sergeant and 9 Detectives
- DTAC internal leveling
 - 6 evening shifts consolidating to 4 evening shifts
- Public Order Team
 - 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporal and 6 Officers
 - Focus on crimes that affect quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors downtown
 - Proactive persistent enforcement of city ordinances and state laws will be the primary assignment
 - Be a conduit for referrals or offers for mental health, medical or other services to affected vulnerable populations





**Austin Police
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Thank You



Lithium-ion Batteries – Fire Safety and Risks

Scott Stookey
Graduate Engineer A – Hazardous Materials
Fire Marshal's Office – Engineering & Plan Review





Today's Topics

- My job focus includes small, medium and large-scale battery systems.
- The focus today is fire safety and risks of < 5 kWh Lithium-Ion Batteries (LiBs) because we are all consumers of this technology.
- The topics are:
 - Personal inventory
 - What's In a LiB
 - Come fly with me
 - Thermal runaway
 - Personal Mobility Devices



Small scale: 5-50 kWh



Personal Inventory

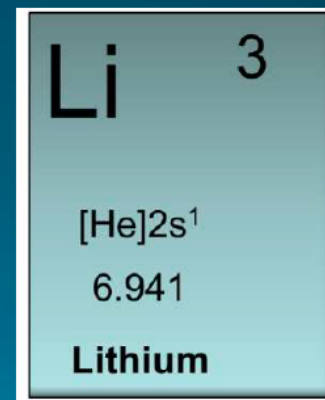
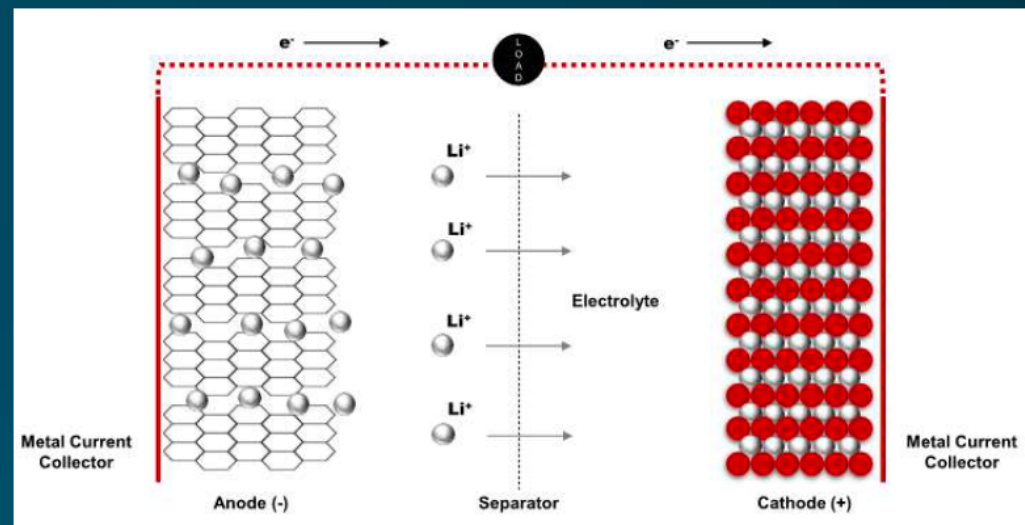
- The presenter has 7 items on his body and is assigned a AFD hybrid automobile = 8 LiBs.
- My home has another 6 devices with LiBs.
- How many devices using LiBs do you and your family have?





What's in a LiB?

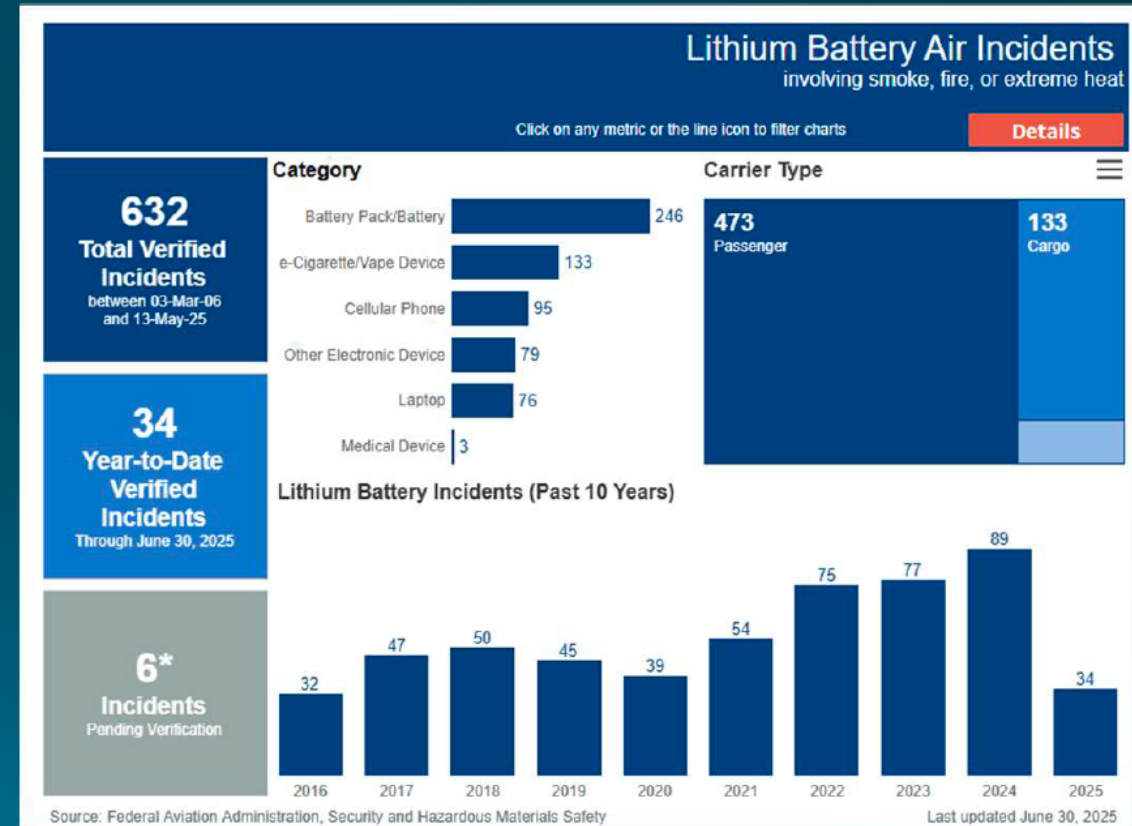
- Anodes and cathodes in LiBs are formulated using Li salts.
- LiBs use carbonate solvents as the electrolyte and plastic separators.
- Highest specific energy density per unit weight (128 Wh/kg).
- Lowest density of all metals (0.534 grams/cm³)
- Smaller package that can store 3x the energy when compared to lead-acid batteries.





Come Fly With Me

- US passenger and cargo aircraft average two incidents/week resulting in smoke, fire, or extreme heat involving LiBs.
- Vaping devices and portable battery packs are the top two devices that undergo thermal runaway.
- Devices with LiBs should be carried onboard and not placed in checked baggage. Some aircraft baggage compartments (but not all) have gaseous fire extinguishing agents, which are ineffective on a LiB fire.





Come Fly With Me

- Air Busan flight BX391 experienced a fire during push-back on January 28, 2025.
- 170 passengers & 6 crew were on board.
- 8 minutes before departure a LAVSMOKE warning appeared in the cockpit. All passengers and crew evacuated.
- Aviation firefighters arrived 5 minutes later and suppressed the fire in 11 minutes.
- 3 serious and 24 minor injuries.



Top view



Cockpit

Cabin

Republic of Korea Aviation & Railway
Accident Investigation Board. *Preliminary
Report of Air Busan BX391. 2025.02.26*



Thermal Runaway

- *A condition whereby a electrochemical cell will overheat and destroy itself through internal heat generation caused by high overcharge or over discharging current or other abusive condition.*
- The higher the State of Charge the greater the Heat Release Rate & volume of flammable/toxic gases.

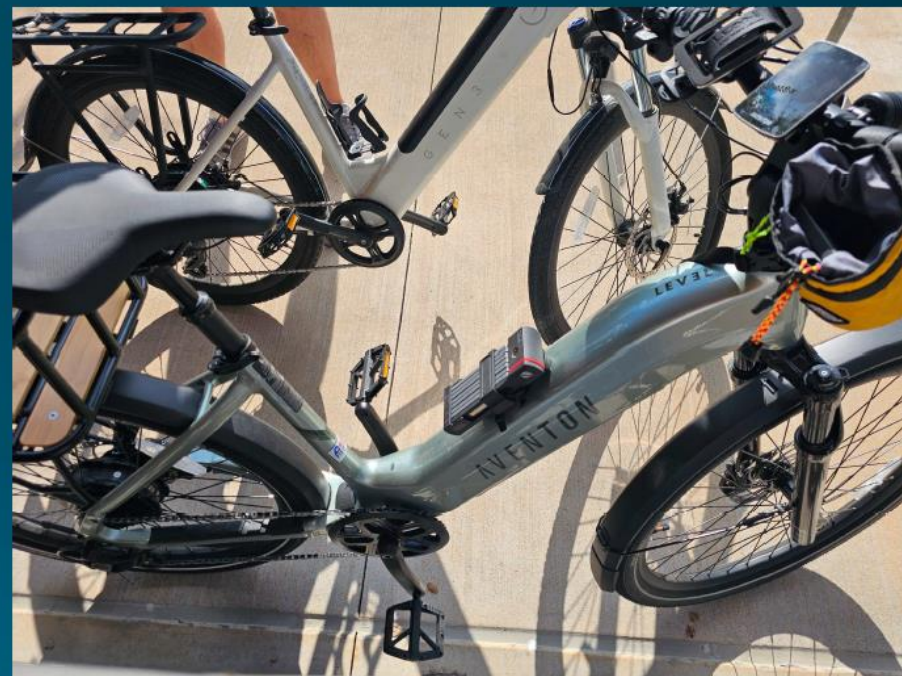
Linden, David, Reddy, Thomas, *Handbook of Batteries* – 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill Inc., NY, NY, 2002, Pg. A.12.





Powered Micromobility Devices (PMDs)

- 2024 IFC Section 322 establishes new requirements for storage & charging.
- Sec. 322.1.1 prohibits the use of a residential occupancy as a business for charging, sales or repair.
- Batteries and chargers shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory and limited to Original Equipment Manufacturer components.
- Sec. 322.4 has design & operational requirements for battery charging areas.





LiB Charging Safety

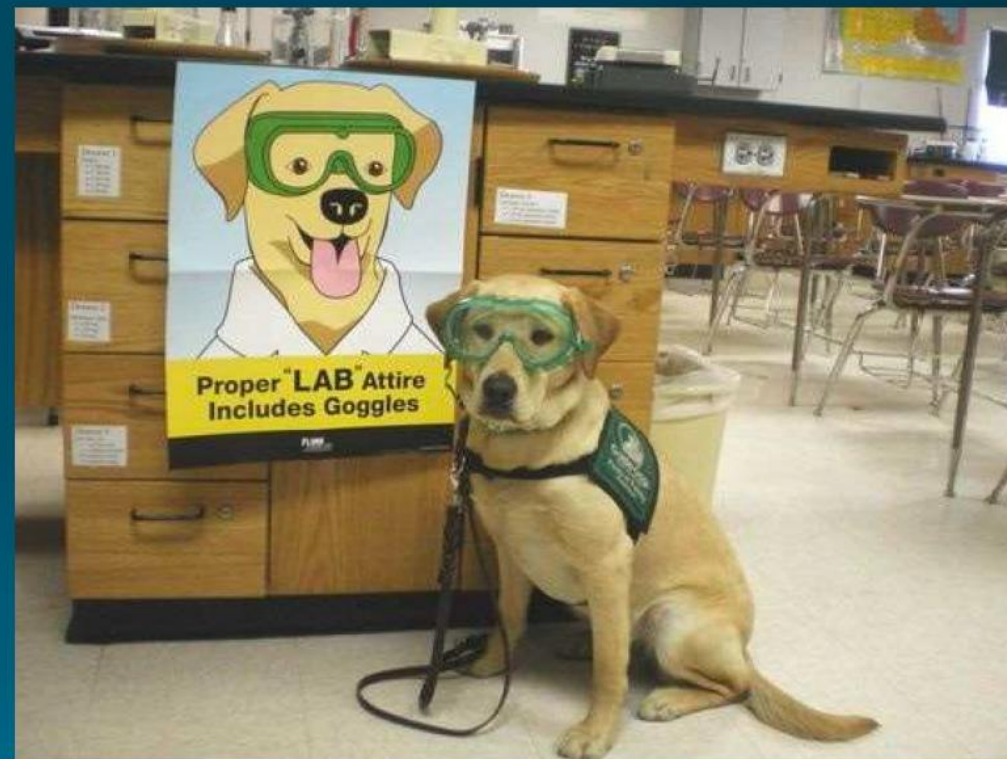
- Never charge a PMD in an occupied bedroom or the exit path of the dwelling.
- Never charge a PMD indoors while sleeping.
- Only use NRTL listed batteries and chargers.
- Don't overcharge the PMD
 - Once charged, unplug the charger.
- Do not charge a PMD in hot or cold environments.
- If the PMD is damaged inspect the battery.





Any Questions?

- Telephone: 512-974-0157
- E-Mail:
Scott.Stookey@Austintexas.gov
- For general questions to the
Fire Marshal's Office:
fireprevention@Austintexas.gov



Downtown Dashboard

A scenic view of the Austin skyline at sunset. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the golden light of the setting sun. A person is paddleboarding on the water. In the background, several tall skyscrapers are visible, including the blue glass towers on the left. The sky is a mix of orange and blue. The overall mood is peaceful and urban.

Downtown Ambassador Service Request

Our ambassadors are stewards for downtown and resources for locals and visitors

Downtown Ambassadors Service Requests

Downtownaustin.com/service-request

RED RIVER CULTURAL DISTRICT PRESENTS

AUSTIN'S FREE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Hot
Summer
Nights**
2025

LOCAL MUSIC • FOOD & DRINK • COMMUNITY
THURSDAY, JULY 24 TO SATURDAY, JULY 26

Upcoming Events and Meeting Groups

July

July 17-21 / MLS All-Star Soccer Celebration @ Various Locations (10,000 attendees)

July 24-26 / Hot Summer Nights – Red River Cultural District

July 27-29 / CEMA (Corporate Event Marketing Assoc.) @ Fairmont (800 attendees)

August

August 5-6 / Blues on the Green @ Zilker Park

August 22-24 / PBR Team Series – Gambler Days @ Moody Center

August 23 / Austin Pride Parade & Festival @ Fiesta Gardens

Open Q&A

Upcoming Downtown Safety Forums:

8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, August 21, 2025

&

Thursday, September 18, 2025
(via Zoom)