

**Issue #18**

## Hazard Alert - Lithium Battery Fire 🔥

Recently, a lithium power bank battery caught fire on campus due to "thermal runaway," a process where overcharge or failure causes batteries to self-ignite, releasing toxic, flammable, or explosive gas. This incident required four fire units and caused damage to curtains and nearby materials, with a student sustaining burns while attempting to extinguish the fire.

### **Common Causes of Battery Fires:**

- Overcharging
- Use of non-compliant charging devices
- Overheating from exposure to excessive temperatures
- Physical abuse of the battery (dropping, crushing, etc.)
- Short circuiting, battery cell malfunction, or system faults
- Modifying or tampering with the battery
- Defects or contamination within the battery system
- Installing replacement or used batteries from a different device

### **Recommended Actions to Mitigate Risk:**

- Follow manufacturer's instructions and use reputable suppliers.
- Use the charger supplied or recommended by the manufacturer, ensuring it has regulatory compliance.
- Supervise devices while charging and keep them on non-flammable surfaces.
- Disconnect devices from power once charged.
- Maintain and test charging equipment according to manufacturer's requirements and

Australian Standards.

- Dispose of lithium batteries appropriately through recycling and never place them in general rubbish disposal.

For more detailed guidelines, refer to the Plant/Equipment Safety Management procedure on the University website.

Stay safe and vigilant as the use of battery-charged devices increases, and remember to call 000 and evacuate immediately in case of fire.

## First Aid at The University

Have you ever thought about signing up to be a first aider at the University? By signing up as a first aider, you'll play a key role in ensuring the University remains a safe environment for everyone:

***Providing immediate and effective first aid to workers or others who have been injured or become ill at the workplace may reduce the severity of the injury or illness and promote recovery. In some cases it could mean the difference between life and death.***

***~ First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice***

If you've got an existing first aid certificate, all you need to do is enter your details in [this form](#) and select "add a name to the first aid register".

If you haven't got a certificate but would like to get trained, refer to the [first aid FAQ](#) page.

## Hazard Alert - Moving Safely Around Campus

Recently, multiple health and safety incidents have occurred on campus involving slips, trips, falls, and even a case of a person being struck by a reversing vehicle while crossing a public road.

These types of incidents can lead to cuts, bruises, fractures, breaks, dislocations, and musculoskeletal injuries.

**Hazards:**

- Loose items on the ground (litter, plant material)
- Differing ground textures (bitumen, concrete, bricks, pavers, tiles, metal covers, grids, grass)
- Slippery, uneven, and sloping surfaces
- Steps and ramps
- Moving vehicles on campus and public roads
- Wet ground surfaces and pooling water
- Inappropriate footwear

**Stay safe by:**

- Avoid stepping on loose items, especially wet leaves or litter.
- Be cautious when transitioning between different ground surfaces.
- Carefully navigate slippery, uneven, or sloping surfaces, particularly when wet.
- Report slip, trip, and fall hazards to [UniSafe](#).
- Use handrails on steps and heed warning signs.
- Use pedestrian traffic lights and designated walkways when crossing public roads.
- Be vigilant for reversing vehicles on campus and main roads.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the weather.
- Ensure visibility of the ground ahead before moving forward.

Stay safe by following these guidelines and help prevent further incidents on campus. For more information, refer to the Safe Work Australia Fact Sheet on Slips and Trips at the Workplace.

## Travelling to Campus Survey

Your commute to campus is reflected in the University's carbon emission footprint. To estimate this, [we'd like your help to answer this short survey](#).

If you have any questions, please email [sustainability@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:sustainability@adelaide.edu.au).

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