



140th Wing Safety

Monthly Safety Memo

September 2016

Special points of interest:

- E-Cigs
- Spot Inspections
- Supervisor Safety Training

Spot Inspections

AFI91-202, Para 3.1 USRs and shop level supervisors ensure spot inspections are conducted and documented at least monthly. Documentation of spot inspections will be IAW paragraph 3.7.4.

Doing your monthly spot inspections insures that employees are provided with a safe working environment. Make sure your inspection is documented on the Wing Safety SharePoint.

Supervisor Safety Training

Supervisors/Training Managers- If you have members who need SST make sure you have them do the CBT portion during the Sep UTA. You can find the course in ADLS under safety. We will be conducting the classroom portion of the course during the Oct UTA and members without the CBT certificate will not be allowed to attend the course. This one time training is a mandatory training for all SSgt's and above.

Contact us if you have any questions or comments!

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E-CIGARETTE SAFETY

What is an E-Cigarette?

The e-cigarette, also called a personal vaporizer (PV) or electronic nicotine delivery system, is a battery-powered device that simulates tobacco smoking by producing a heated vapor, which resembles smoke.

How do they work?

The devices have a heating element (an atomizer or car-tomizer) to vaporize a liquid solution. Solutions (also called juice) usually contain a mixture of propylene glycol (PG), which increases flavor; vegetable glycerin (VG), which increases vapor; nicotine; and flavorings. Some juices provide flavored vapor without nicotine. "Automatic" e-cigarettes activate the heating coil when a user takes a drag from the device. Manual e-cigarettes have a switch that the user depresses to energize the heating element to make the heated vapor. Most manufactured devices have built-in timeout features that prevent overheating, and many have locking features to prevent the switch from being activated in a pocket or purse.

Incidents

Media reports of 25 separate incidents in the U.S. dating from 2009 to the present were found during an Internet search. This list is not thought to be all-inclusive since it is likely that there were incidents that were not reported to the fire department and/or reported in the media.

Twenty incidents occurred while the battery in the device was being charged.

Two incidents occurred during use.

In two incidents, it is not clear whether the e-cigarette was in use, idle or being charged.

One incident occurred during transportation on a cargo aircraft.

Ten injuries and zero deaths were reported by the media.³

Several burn injuries were reported.

Two serious injuries occurred when devices exploded in users' mouths.

The lithium-ion batteries used to power the devices can fail. Battery failures, manifested as small explosions and fires, have occurred. Considering the vast number of products in the field that use lithium-ion batteries, however, it is clear that the failure rates are low.

How You Can Minimize the Risk of an E-Cig Meltdown

Stick with the manufacturer's provided charger: Always use the charging appliance that comes with the unit and follow the manufacturer's instructions. This way, you know the battery is compatible with the charger. Avoid leaving it connected to the charger overnight.

Be careful about what you plug your e-cig into: Avoid plugging the e-cig into any old USB port. The manufacturer's user manual usually includes technical specifications for the proper voltage.

Buy from reputable companies and suppliers: There are a lot of homemade "mods", or basically DIY, low-cost modifications of e-cigs. This isn't exactly the safest way to go because homemade mods simply may not have the built-in safety mechanisms to prevent overheating.

Check to see if the battery is "safe": The battery shouldn't be more powerful than what the device is designed for. Plus, there are different quality of batteries. Poorly manufactured, low-cost, counterfeit ones typically do not perform as well and would be more likely to have problems. Internet forums often share information on product recalls, safety notices, and what batteries not to buy.

Take care of your battery: Clean the battery and terminal contents with tissue or alcohol wipes if it's dirty. When you're not using the e-cigarette, be sure to turn the battery off. Finally, they recommend that you don't over tighten when attaching the battery to your clearomizer (the clear plastic or glass body of an e-cig [if that's the kind you have](#)). If you suspect damage to your battery, get a new one or take it to an electronics service center for inspection.

The best way to avoid a mishap and protect your health is to not smoke at all!

Checkout our Safety SharePoint site for more information and links!
<https://eissp.ang.af.mil/org/140WG/WingStaff/SE/default.aspx>