



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Potential Vape Pen Fire Hazard

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The KBI Forensic Science Laboratories have received reports of a hazard associated with vape pens/e-cigarettes. Specifically, vape pens/e-cigarettes pose a risk of fire and/or explosion when stored incorrectly. This potential hazard increases when a device contains faulty batteries, or through an inadvertent activation of the device. The risks associated with these hazards include: injury to personnel, and damage to property, including other evidence stored in close proximity.

New Jersey forensic laboratories have confirmed two separate occurrences of this hazard.

In October and November 2019, the KBI Forensic Science Laboratories received over 60 cases (amounting to more than 200 items) containing vape pens/e-cigarettes for analysis.

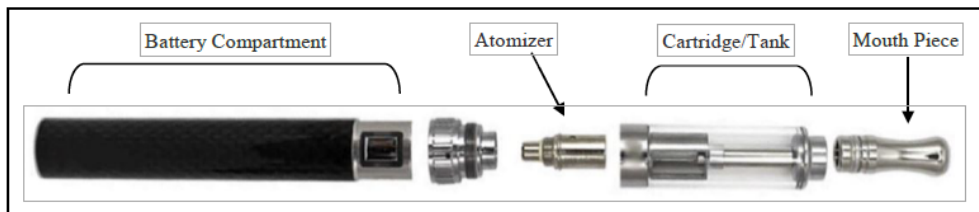
Recommendations for Law Enforcement and Evidence Handlers:

To avoid a potential fire hazard:

- Separate the battery pack from the vape pen/e-cigarette if at all possible (see image).
- If battery removal is not possible, package and seal the device in an unused, metal paint can of an appropriate size.
- If a metal can is not available, the sealed, packaged item should be isolated from all other evidence to avoid inadvertent activation of the power button.

Submissions to Forensic Science Laboratories for analysis:

- Remove and submit the cartridge/tank of the vape pen/e-cigarette only.
- If the device must be submitted with the battery in place, seal the device in a metal, unused paint can. Appropriate cans are available in the Evidence Control Centers for use during the submission process.



For further guidance, or if any additional questions arise, please contact the chemistry supervisor at (785) 296-3039, or the evidence control supervisor at (785) 296-1040. Thank you.