

# HSAC Lithium Batteries and PEDs

Houston, January 17 2019

Jeff Goyer



# **Background – IOGP ASC**



- October 2016 IOGP meeting the subject of the Galaxy Note 7 having failures, was in the news
- Discussion on the issue of lithium batteries and some unregulated devices (e-cigarettes) took place
- Survey Monkey sent out 2016, results presented at Dallas meeting in 2017
- Draft guidance for use of PED's and carriage of Lithium Batteries presented in London – membership felt was too restrictive and lack of class 'C' cargo compartments in helicopters

#### 2018

- EASA SID 2017-04R1 issued in December 2017 highlighted further FAA testing and found even class D and C cargo compartments would have poor chance of containing large PED (anything bigger than cell phones) with luggage
- Recommends large PEDs carried in passenger cabin, where fire can be fought
- Provides mitigating measures if large PED has to be in checked luggage

## **Current Guidance**



#### **FAA**

- 49 CFR 175.10 does not allow the carriage of spare lithium batteries in checked luggage, and does not allow for e-cigarettes and charging packs in checked luggage. Spare batteries must be protected from damage, shorting, etc
- Limited in battery size of 100Wh, no limit on quantity

#### **EASA**

- Lithium batteries are Dangerous Goods
- Recommends<sup>1</sup> you carry all PEDs in carry-on luggage
- Provides mitigating measures if large PED has to be in checked luggage

#### **UK CAA**

 similar guidance to FAA and EASA; recommends carrying lithium powered PEDs in carry luggage and restricts checked luggage from having e-cigarettes, spare batteries (but not power packs).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.easa.europa.eu/easa-and-you/passengers/dangerous-goods

## The Problem



- Most guidance is aimed at airline travel which have trained flight attendants with easy access to fire extinguishes, water source, smoke hoods, fire gloves and in some cases, containment bags
- Passengers and public believe access to devices is a right difficult to change behaviors on carriage of devices
- Causes of thermal runaways and fire/explosion is less known, but testing is showing the results of these can be catastrophic, especially if amongst other flammable materials where the fire cannot be contained
- Study of the data<sup>2</sup> reveals that the majority (>60%) of inflight events relate to power banks / charging devices
  - Second highest cause of events is while charging a device

What causes the devices to explode?

Excessive heat caused by either: Overcharging, short or impact

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.faa.gov/about/office\_org/headquarters\_offices/ash/ash\_programs/hazmat/aircarrier\_info/media/Battery\_incident\_chart.pdf

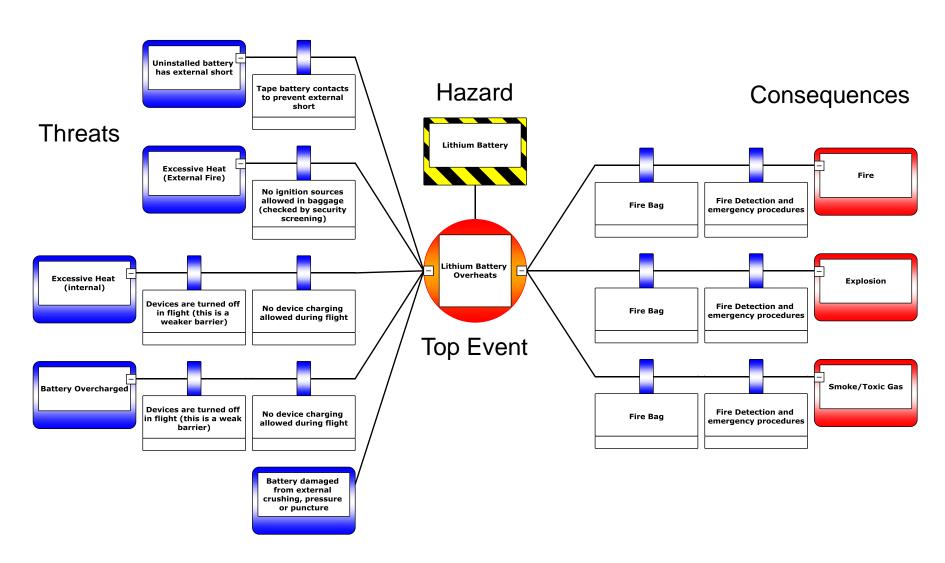
# **Examples**



| Date       | Source  | Type of Battery | Device                             | Carrier                     | Aircraft<br>Type | Incident Summary   |
|------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| 7/21/2018  | Airline | Li-ion          | Battery<br>charger/battery<br>pack | Southwest                   | Passenger        | During loading of flight 4695 from Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) to Dallas, TX (DAL) a bag was removed from a baggage cart and was found to be smoking and caught fire prior to being loaded on the aircraft. The checked bag contained a portable battery pack/power pack, which appeared to go into thermal runaway and burned the smaller bag it was in, as well as the contents and the duffel bag itself. There was nothing plugged into the unit and it was not protected in any way inside of the bag, i.e., no protection against external short-circuiting. No injuries or other damage was reported. |
| 12/15/2018 | Airline | Li-ion          | Battery<br>charger/battery<br>pack | United<br>Express /<br>Mesa | Passenger        | During the baggage off-load of United Express/Mesa Airlines flight 6080, from Houston, TX (IAH) to Detroit, MI (DTW) on December 15, 2018, a bag was found to be emitting smoke. The bag was opened by the airport police to reveal a battery charger with four batteries. The luggage was charred and the battery charger appeared to be melted.  |

# **Lithium Batteries on Helicopters**





Prevention

Mitigation

## The Solution



Methods to reduce excessive heat caused by overcharging, short or impact:

- 1. Do not charge devices on board
- 2. Protect devices from damage
- 3. Turn devices off so there is no power draw

All of these mitigations can be achieved on our aircraft.

High risk devices, such as power banks and e-cigarettes (unregulated batteries) are already banned from some offshore helicopters and charter aircraft.

## Can we agree?





## The Recommendation



### **ONE Solution**

- For Offshore Helicopters or small aircraft not equipped with flight attendant:
  - All devices must be completely switched off
  - No power banks or e-cigarettes allowed on aircraft unless stored in a manner which can contain any fire or explosion
  - No charging of electronic devices are approved aboard the aircraft
  - For EFBs, procedures must be in place to manage these devices in the cockpit
  - Consideration should be given to placing all small PEDs, at time of check-in, into a fire and explosion proof device for carriage aboard the aircraft

Should HSAC recommend best practices on this subject?