



Fact Sheet – EV Fire Safety

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OCN is working with various industry groups on updates to the National Construction Code (NCC) with respect to charging of Electric Vehicles (EV) in residential buildings. This work is primarily aimed at setting minimum requirements for EV readiness in the built environment. As part of that work, the question for fire risk from EVs and fire safety in carparks is being addressed. There is no persuasive evidence at present to show EV fires are significantly worse than Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles (ICE fires, or that EV fire rates are significantly higher than ICEV. EV charging equipment is not expected to have a significant impact on carpark fire rates or fire severity. The cautious conclusion is NCC requirements do mitigate the hazards and risks of EV charging in building carparks. However, emerging knowledge about EV fires must be kept under review in the following key areas:

- NCC provisions for carpark fire safety design were informed by research last century showing fires largely confined to single vehicles and causing only local damage. Australia’s experience has backed in that research. Carpark fires are infrequent, multi-car fires rare, fatalities and injuries almost unknown, structural damage limited, and fire spread to other premises of