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LFP Battery Container Transport Carries Significant Risks to be Considered

I wish to submit the following News article regarding an 82,500 lb LFP Tesla Megapak transport overturning in Forrest City, Arkansas off the I-40 on August 12. The Megapak immediately went into thermal runaway igniting nearby vegetation and exposing motorists to toxic gases.

This serves as a reminder to us all that these battery units, regardless of manufacturer, are extremely heavy and pose risks during transport.

The Prairie Song will utilize 2,035 LFP SUNGROW Power Titan 2 battery containers weighing 40,000 lbs/ 20 tons each, which is also a very heavy load. The Dept of Transportation sets a limit of 80,000 lbs for transport on our interstates without special permissions. The likelihood that two battery containers would be loaded and transported is therefore very likely and also would then present the same weight-related transport risks as the scenario in Forrest City, AK.

These potential transportation and public health impacts during construction should be given considerable weight, especially given the sheer number of transport trips that will be necessary for the 2,035 battery containers required for this Prairie Song BESS project. These transport trips will exceed 1,017 in number if each truck transports two battery container units as allowed under DOT regulations.

This added risk in a VHFHSZ , beside the State Route 14 which is a major transportation corridor, adjacent to Metro Rail service and in proximity of sensitive receptors is very concerning.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Arkansas Firefighters Battle Massive Tesla Megapack Blaze After Highway Accident

Thu, August 13, 2026 by [News Room](#)



Arkansas Firefighters Battle Massive Tesla Megapack Blaze After Highway Accident

Firefighters from across eastern Arkansas faced an unusual and potentially dangerous emergency Tuesday after an 18-wheeler hauling an 82,500-pound Tesla Megapack lost its load along Interstate 40 and the massive battery unit caught fire.

According to the Forrest City Fire Department, the Megapack came to rest on its side on a grassy hill near I-40 mile marker 260 before catching fire. The unit is a large-scale energy storage system containing lithium-ion batteries.

The incident brought firefighters from Forrest City, West Memphis, Marion, Wynne, Newcastle, Colt, Caldwell, Hughes, Widener, Edmonson and Crawfordsville. The Arkansas Department of Transportation also provided water and manpower.

Lithium-ion battery fires create challenges considerably different from many conventional fires.

When damaged batteries enter what's known as thermal runaway, rapidly increasing temperatures can produce a self-sustaining reaction. Even after visible flames have been controlled, damaged cells can continue generating heat and create a risk of additional burning or reignition.

Smoke is another concern. NFPA materials say battery energy-storage failures can release mixtures of toxic and highly toxic gases, including carbon monoxide and hydrogen fluoride, along with flammable gases. That can create hazards for firefighters as well as people downwind of a battery fire.

Tesla's emergency-response guidance for its industrial battery products recommends evacuating the immediate area when smoke or fire is detected and warns firefighters not to open a burning Megapack. The company says the unit is designed to

vent smoke and flames through designated areas.

Water can be particularly important for controlling the heat and protecting surrounding areas. Tesla says water is the preferred firefighting agent for lithium-ion battery incidents because of its cooling ability, although applying water directly to a burning Megapack may not stop thermal runaway occurring inside its steel enclosure.

Those hazards were especially important Tuesday because the Megapack was close to Interstate 40 and a south wind was pushing smoke toward traffic. Firefighters worked to control the fire and smoke while protecting motorists and the surrounding area.

White Motor Company eventually assisted crews in lifting the approximately 41-ton Megapack upright and placing it on a trailer. It was moved to a safer location where firefighters allowed the unit to burn itself out.

Tesla representatives also responded to provide technical guidance to emergency crews, something the company's emergency-response instructions recommend during fires or other hazardous incidents involving its energy-storage products.

Forrest City fire officials said their primary concern throughout the lengthy response was protecting motorists, nearby residents and emergency personnel.

One thing I would emphasize in the story: allowing the Megapack to burn out wasn't firefighters simply giving up on extinguishing it. Tesla's own guidance says direct application of water may not stop thermal runaway inside a burning Megapack and recommends a defensive strategy focused on protecting surrounding exposures. That makes what firefighters did in Forrest City much easier for listeners to understand.