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Lithium Batteries Not Safe for 90 MInto Rd - 6 Battery Incidents in 5 Years at Moss Landing

Since the Moss Landing Power Plant installed and activated lithium-ion battery systems in order to produce electricity, there have been six lithium-ion battery incidents. The first was nine months after the plant first started to generate electricity. Two were after the plant had been shut down.

What was the largest lithium-ion battery storage system in the world actually was two separate lithium-ion battery storage systems. The first was the Vistra Energy Storage Facility that was connected to the power grid and began generating electricity on Dec. 11, 2020. The second, at the same site, is the Elkhorn Battery Facility that is owned by PG&E and used Tesla batteries.

Nine months after the batteries were connected to the grid, on Sept. 4, 2021, Phase 1 of Vistraâ€™s 200-megawatt batteries overheated and activated the sprinkler system. North Monterey County Fire came on the scene and the area was shut down until an investigation was held. At this time in history, lithium-ion battery fires were a new experience for not only communities, but fire departments and media who were reporting on the fires.

The second incident occurred five and a half months later on Feb. 13, 2022 at 8pm, when again a fire alarm was triggered at Vistra Phase-II. This time a sprinkler system leaked causing batteries to short and smoke. Visrtra reported that this was the same thing that happened on Sept. 4 at the Phase 1 facility. North Monterey Fire arrived and found about ten melted battery packs.

The third incident, on Sept. 20, 2022, was at the 182.5-megawatt Tesla Megapack Phase 3 site, that shut down Hwy. 1 for 12 hours. It was PG&Eâ€™s largest storage facility at the time. It had just gone online June 7, 2022.

The largest thermal runaway occurred on Jan.16, 2025 at Moss Landing's Phase 2 of Vistra's 300 mega-watt battery storage. Of the 100,000 lithium-ion LG batteries, 55% burned for 5 days spewing smoke, ash and poisonous chemicals miles beyond the site. People are still assessing the effects on their health, property, businesses and pets.

The fifth incident was a flare-up on Feb. 18. The plant is now completely shut down. Teslaâ€™s batteries are still on site but not in operation. Vistra and the Environmental Protection Agency are currently in the process of dismantling and disposing of the burnt and damaged batteries.

The sixth occurred Sept. 18, at 6:15am. A shelter-in-place order was issued for

community and schools. It was lifted at 5pm. The nightmares continue. The community around 90 Minto Road, farmers and residents in the Pajaro Valley should not be subjected to this dangerous threat.