



ELECTRIC VEHICLE HANDLING & STORAGE

With the electric vehicle (EV) trend continuing to gain momentum, their involvement in traffic accidents is likely to rise. Towing operators, repair shops and salvage operations need to understand the differences and added risks for towing and repairing these vehicles compared to gas-powered vehicles. **If not handled properly, it can lead to costly claims for the insured!**

→ **Did you know...** While EVs made up 6.5% of the total auto market in 2022, most manufacturers have lofty strategies to increase production. According to J.P. Morgan, EVs are projected to make up 38% of total market sales by 2025!

Top Reasons for Growing Electric Vehicle Demand



**Heightened
environmental
concerns**



**Greater
availability of
models**



**Competitive
vehicle pricing &
lower long-term
costs**



**Improved vehicle
ranges**

Lithium-Ion Batteries Pose New Risks

The key difference between electric vehicles and conventional ones is **high-voltage lithium-ion batteries**. If one of these batteries is damaged in an accident, it can cause a fire. What's more, there are additional safety risks, including electric shock, thermal runaway and multiple battery reignitions after the initial fire is suppressed.





→ **What is thermal runaway?** Thermal runaway is a chain reaction within a battery cell. It occurs when the temperature inside a battery reaches the point that causes a chemical reaction to occur. This can produce venting and combustion of toxic gases, cell rupture, the release of projectiles and battery fire.

Snapshot of Guiding Principles for Towing Operators, Repair Shops and Salvage Operations

- Know your local regulatory requirements regarding who is responsible for disconnecting the EV batteries after a loss
 - In many states, this should be done by emergency responders
- When storing an electric vehicle, make sure to place it away from buildings or other vehicles, if at all possible

Resources

Insureds dealing with EVs should gain a full understanding of the guidelines for handling and storing EVs. These helpful resources provide a deeper dive:

1. **Overview of the electric vehicle safety report from the National Transportation Safety Board including handling recommendations** (Source: Repairer Driven News)
2. **Overview of report on preventing and recovering from electric vehicle hazardous events including handling recommendations** (Source: Springer Link)
3. **Electric vehicle field guide including general vehicle handling guidelines for storage** (Source: National Fire Protection Association)
4. **Electric vehicle handling guidelines by vehicle make** (Source: National Fire Protection Association)

Agents, make sure your insureds are aware of this information, as it not only relates to claims and cost savings but also their own personal safety.



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As a benefit of partnering with KBK Insurance Group, Wayne is available as a resource to help agents and their insureds at any time! Wayne can assist in many ways, from reviewing manuals to visiting a site to discuss loss mitigation.

WAYNE KING | wking@nsminc.com | (860) 707-6273