



# Potential Vape Pen Fire Hazard

## Intelligence Dissemination Report

Drug Monitoring Initiative, Office of Drug Monitoring & Analysis ~ ROIC201904-07023D  
NJ ROIC SIN: NJ CRM-0100 (Geographic) / DHS SIN: HSEC 10 (Illicit Operations)  
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### Key Findings:

Vape pens and e-cigarettes can pose a risk of fire and/or explosion, which can cause injury and/or property damage, when stored incorrectly.

### Details:

Vape pens and e-cigarettes pose a risk of fire and/or explosion.

- The potential hazards increase if the device is stored incorrectly, contains faulty batteries, or if the unit is unintentionally activated (i.e. within pockets or backpacks).
- The risks associated with these hazards include injury (i.e. students, staff) and/or property damage (i.e. lockers, backpacks, offices).

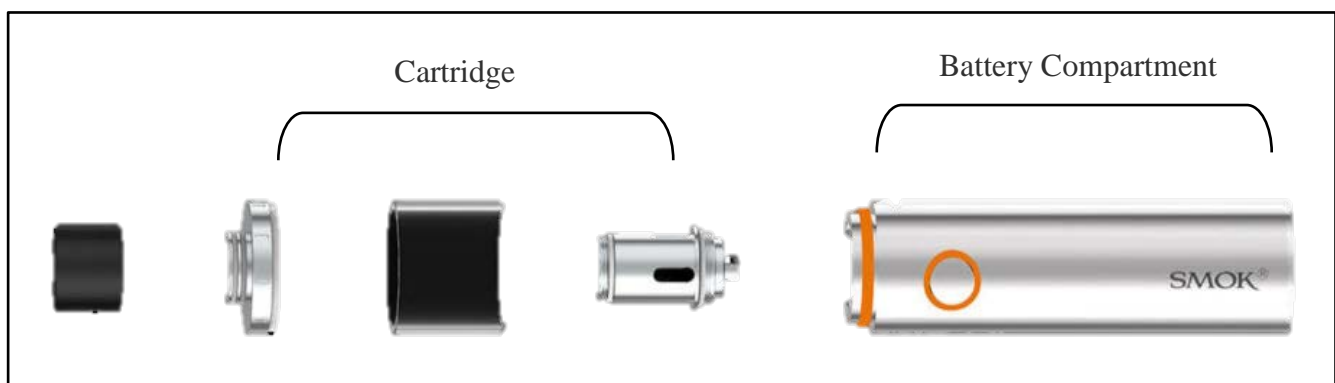
Forensic laboratories in NJ have reported an increase in submissions of vape pens and e-cigarettes for CDS analysis. Two recent incidents underscore the importance of storing vape pens correctly:

- A vape pen stored in the evidence room was found switched “on” and began emitting smoke. The vape pen’s “on” button was inadvertently being depressed by compression against other evidence.
- A vape pen battery was removed, however, remained operational due to an internal power supply. The pen’s on/off button was pressed five times to turn the device “off.”

### Recommendations for School Officials:

To avoid a potential fire hazard, shut off the device and remove the battery from the battery compartment (See Image Below). Some vape pens may have removable batteries, while others may not.

- If the unit’s power button is depressed once, the pen should not illuminate. However, if it still illuminates, the pen is not shut off, and the process should be repeated as many times as necessary.
- If the battery cannot be shut off or separated from the vape cartridge, it should be packaged in a quart paint can for storage.



**Source:** Law Enforcement

**Source Reliability:** Completely Reliable

**Contributing Agency/Agencies:** Union County Prosecutor’s Office & NJSP Office of Forensic Sciences

**Dissemination:** For Official Use Only Partners

**Request for Information and Contact Information:** Any agency with additional information regarding this topic, or with questions about this product, may contact the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) at the Office of the New Jersey Regional Operations and Intelligence Center at (609) 963-6900 ext. 6255, or [DMI@gw.njsp.org](mailto:DMI@gw.njsp.org).

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