

## STATEMENT

The U.S. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), together with the UL Fire Safety Research Institute, recently issued a statement critically addressing the use of extinguishing or fire limitation blankets in electric vehicle fires. The warning highlighted that flammable gases could accumulate beneath such blankets and may ignite explosively if suddenly exposed to oxygen. This assessment has drawn significant international attention within the fire protection industry.

What exactly is the issue? In test scenarios, it was observed that during thermal runaway events involving lithium-ion batteries, highly flammable gases can accumulate under a fire limitation blanket. If the blanket is then removed or torn open, these gases may ignite explosively. This behavior is similar to the well-known phenomenon of flashover: a rapid ignition of all combustible gases in a space when oxygen is suddenly reintroduced after a period of oxygen depletion. While this effect is not new, it does require professional and strategic response during emergency operations.

## What really matters: Proper deployment!

The risk described by the NFPA is not a general argument against using fire limitation blankets – rather, it is a strong case for their trained and tactical use. As with structural or industrial fires, identifying and responding appropriately to flashover situations can be a matter of life and death. Yet no one would suggest never opening doors or forgoing smoke assessment for that reason. The same logic applies to lithium-ion battery fires: a blanket is not a miracle solution – but it is a valuable tactical tool when understood and used correctly.

VLITEX Fire Limitation Blankets – Safe Through Quality and Concept. Our blankets are specifically designed to address the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. VLITEX fire limitation blankets of PREMIUM quality are tested according to DIN SPEC 91489 – a German specification that simulates real-world conditions in electric vehicle incidents. These blankets offer:

- · Effective limitation of flame spread and reduction of smoke development
- · Mechanical protection against explosion debris (burst protection)
- · High heat resistance and durability

Crucially, our blankets are integrated into a comprehensive safety concept.

## Training is key!

We do not rely solely on product safety – we prioritize user safety through knowledge. That's why VLITEX offers training and guidance for fire departments, repair shops, parking facility operators, and other users. The goal is to ensure proper tactical application of the blankets – and to provide a clear understanding of their advantages, risks, and limitations.

Fire limitation blankets are not a replacement for water-based firefighting or quarantine measures. Instead, they are a tactical supplement – particularly in the early phase of an incident – to quickly control fire spread and reduce danger to responders and the environment. Beyond initial containment, fire limitation blankets are also suitable for post-incident security. Damaged or thermally stressed batteries pose a risk of re-ignition hours or even days after the fire appears extinguished. In these cases, the blanket serves as a preventive safety measure and additional protective barrier.

## **Conclusion**

The NFPA warning is important – because it promotes a responsible and nuanced approach to using fire limitation blankets. **VLITEX explicitly supports this mindset.** With certified quality, thorough training, and a well-thought-out safety concept, our blankets serve as an effective tactical tool – not despite, but precisely because of the challenges posed by modern lithiumion technology.

Your VLITEX Team