

Managing EV Fires: Free Safety Awareness Session for First Responders



As of December 31, 2024, New Jersey had 218,631 registered electric vehicles (EVs). With EV adoption on the rise, it is crucial for first responders to understand how to safely manage incidents involving these vehicles.

Traditional firefighting techniques may not be effective for EV-related fires due to the high-voltage systems they operate on. Although EVs are less likely to catch fire compared to gasoline-powered vehicles, they burn at significantly higher temperatures (up to 5,000°F versus 1,500°F) and can reignite even after being extinguished. As a result, handling EV fires requires specialized knowledge and procedures.

To address this need, [EZ Ride](#), in partnership with the [New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association \(NJEVA\)](#), is offering a free three-hour EV Awareness session for first responders. NJEVA has previously delivered this program to Fire Departments across New Jersey. The program features a presentation by an experienced volunteer firefighter and energy storage expert. The program covers:

- General introduction to electric vehicle technology
- Understanding battery thermal runaway
- Size Up / Initial Response
- Hands-on practice with Emergency Response Guides on multiple EVs

Municipalities that participate in the program could earn 15 certification points through Sustainable Jersey under the "Make Your Town EV Friendly" Action category. Offering the Electric Vehicle First Responder Awareness Program is considered a mandatory task for this initiative.

Schedule a Free First Responder EV Awareness Session

Communities interested in hosting this valuable program can apply [here](#), <https://form.jotform.com/90806232529154>. Resources are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details, email EV@ezride.org or call 201-939-4242 (Option 6).

