Laptop Fire Safety

Steps You Can Take To Prevent a Laptop Fire:

• A damaged or faulty battery has a high potential to start a fire. (See Figure 1)
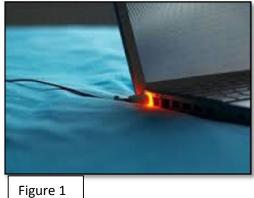

Figure 1

Figure 2

• Do not leave your computer plugged in and sitting on a combustible surface, such as a couch, bed, carpet, or paper-cluttered desk as it leads can lead to a fire from overheating. It is suggested that you unplug your laptop when not in use and place it on a desk clear of combustible materials.

• Make sure the computer power cord is not damaged; it can emit small electrical sparks that can start a fire. If damaged, unplug the power cord immediately and replace it as soon as possible!

• Do not block the laptop's fan and air vents when using it. This can happen when a laptop is used on a bed or pillow, suffocating the laptop's fans and air vents. Try using a chill pad / cooler specifically designed for laptops. (See Figure 2)

• Dust and lint can contribute to the laptop overheating. Avoid placing the laptop on surfaces where dirt, dust, or lint are present.

• In case of a battery or electrical fire: DO NOT USE WATER! Use either Class ABC multipurpose (dry chemical) extinguisher or Class BC carbon dioxide extinguisher.

For more information please contact your Safety Representative or IRFT (Tel: 022-26860040).

Reference: http://tulane.edu/oehs/safety/upload/