

Vape Waste: A Hidden Fire Hazard in Our Trash

Jennifer Heaton-Jones
Executive Director, HRRRA

Overview of the
September 30, 2025
Vape Forum



Vaping Unveiled

Prevention – Health – Waste Management Panels
September 30th LOB, Hartford



Dr. Jordan E. Grossman
Superintendent of Schools
Canton Public Schools



Kathy Hanley
Behavioral Health Program Manager
Western CT Coalition, Inc.



Caroline Joyce
Executive Director
Parents Against Vaping



Jennifer Heaton-Jones
Executive Director
HRRRA



Hanz Atia
Senior Associate
Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)



Shelly Fuller
Hazardous Materials Program Manager
Boulder County, CO



Ross Bunnell
Environmental Engineer 3
CT DEEP

Material Management Perspective

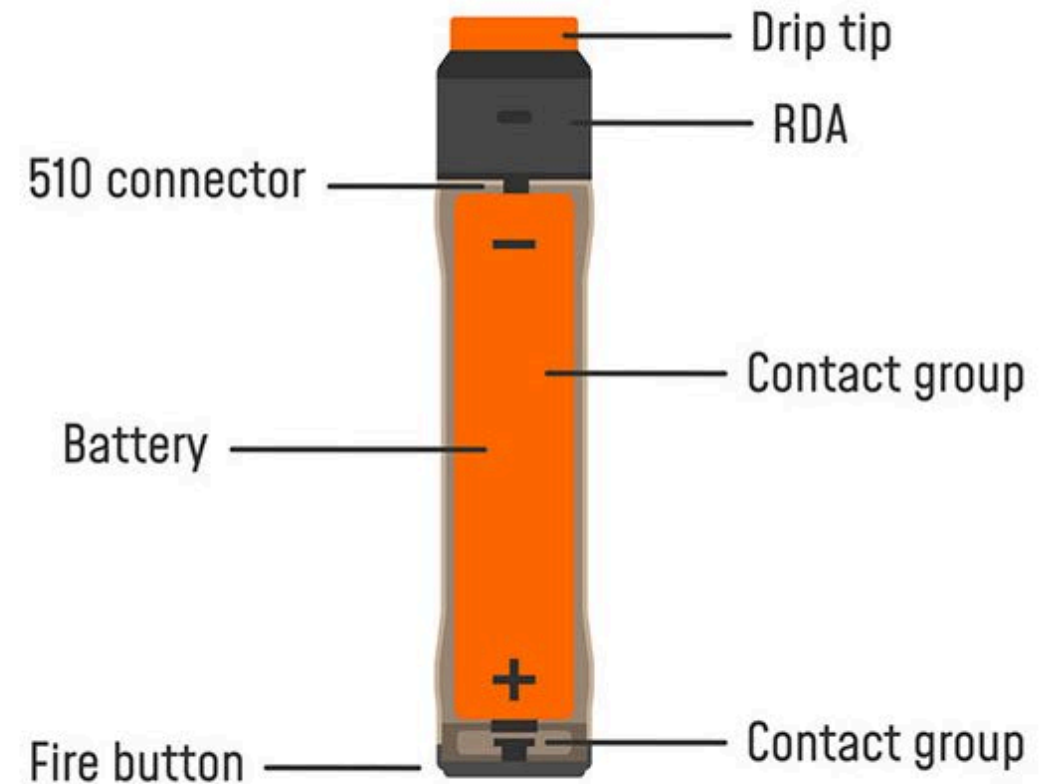
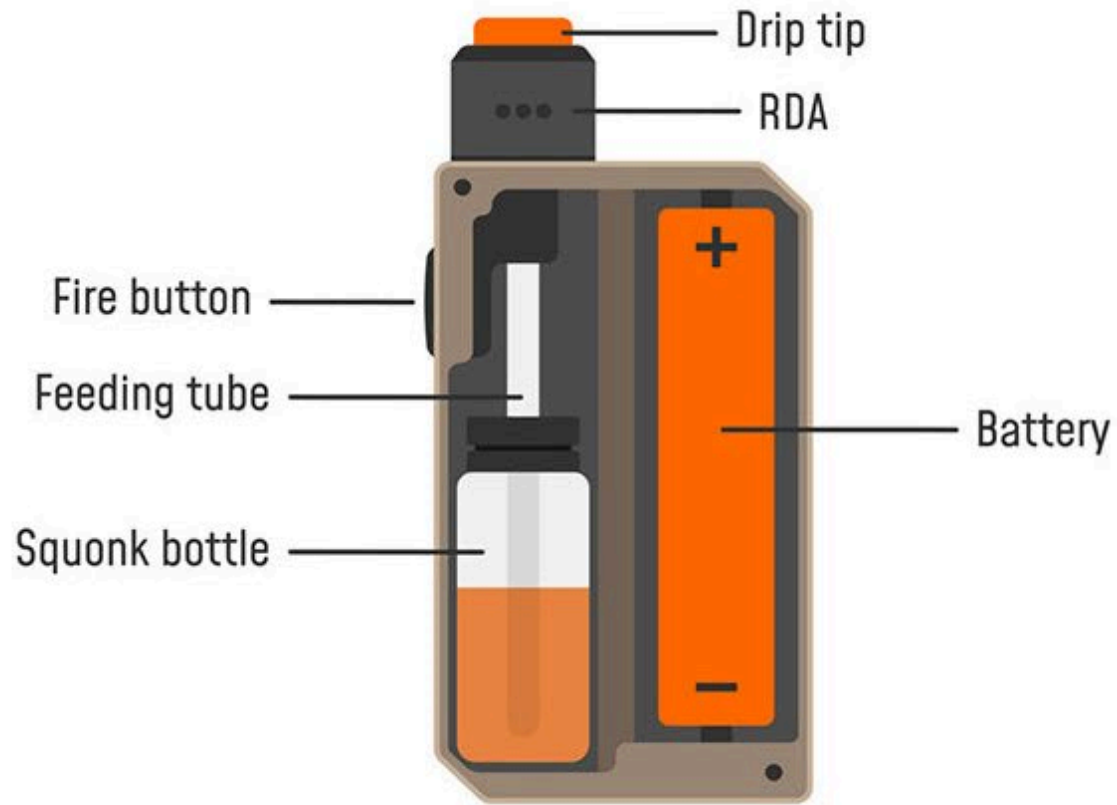


Material Management Nightmare



What waste stream do these hoodies go in?

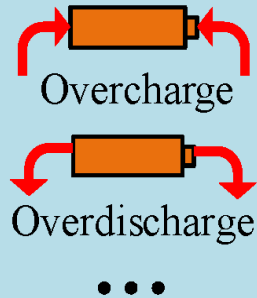
Common Denominator



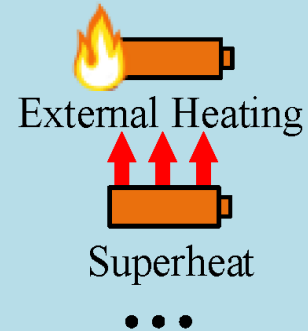
Plastic casing, **toxic liquid, battery**

Causes of Thermal Runaway

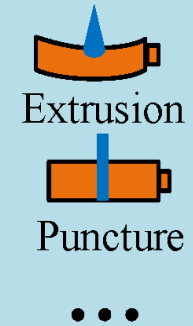
Electricity Abuse



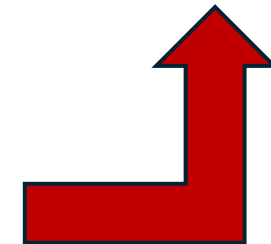
Thermal Abuse



Mechanical Abuse



Waste Stream Conditions: compactors,
front loaders, shredders, heavy equipment







This is not a Fire.
Vapes cause
Thermal Run Away.





Shelton, Connecticut - Material Recovery Facility, March 2023



18 Fire Departments Responded

- **Monroe**
- **Stratford**
- **Ansonia**
- **Bethany**
- **Seymour**
- **Derby**
- **Orange**
- **Trumbull**
- **Oxford**
- **Beacon Falls**
- **Prospect**
- **Ridgefield**
- **Woodridge**
- **Redding**



The battery thermal run-away resulted in a complete loss.

The background is a collage of various items associated with electronic waste and hazardous materials. It includes a red and white striped object, a blue object, a metal component labeled 'XMDDF066', an orange box with a 'PEACH' logo, and various other electronic components and wires.

- **HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS.**

- **HEAVY METALS.**

- **"ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING PLASTICS."**

HARMLESS?

**VAPES ARE
TRASH.**

www.vapesaretrash.org

How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes: Information for Individuals

On this page:

- [Do NOT put e-cigarettes in your household trash or recycling](#)
- [DO take e-cigarettes to your household hazardous waste collection site](#)
- [E-cigarettes contain nicotine and lithium batteries](#)
- [Benefits of household hazardous waste collection](#)
- [Printable fact sheet](#)



For guidance for schools and small businesses, check out our webpage [How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes: Information for Schools and Small Businesses.](#)



Learn More

HRRRA.org/Vapes

Engage

Join me for future
discussions

Support

Policy Change