

# SAFETY ADVISORY

## Potential Vape Pen Fire Hazard

To ensure the safety of personnel and evidence, NMS Labs is implementing changes regarding the storage and submission of vape pens and e-cigarette devices. These devices can pose a risk of fire hazard or explosion, which can cause injury and/or property damage when stored or handled incorrectly. Published reports in the United States and Great Britain have documented the dangers associated with the lithium ion batteries used to power these devices and the serious, potentially fatal, consequences if they are not handled properly.

Our internal Quality Assurance department, Safety Director and laboratory staff have advised of the safety concerns if these devices are not properly secured prior to submitting to the laboratory.

### **NMS Labs requires the following:**

- Removal of cartridges from electronic devices when possible, so only the cartridges are submitted
- Batteries be removed from electronic devices prior to submission. If the batteries cannot be removed, ensure that the device is secured in the “OFF” position

If a device containing a battery is submitted to the laboratory, the battery will be removed from the device and packaged separately for storage when possible. Analysis of the cartridge will proceed as requested.

We currently perform testing on vape cartridges for THC identification, THC quantitation and hemp/marijuana differentiation. We ask for your adherence to the best practice guidelines outlined above for the safe handling of these devices and for the general safety of your staff and the staff at NMS Labs.

If you have any questions regarding the handling or submission of these devices, please contact our Client Services Department at 844.276.1182 or [crimelab@nmslabs.com](mailto:crimelab@nmslabs.com) for further assistance.

