

## American Motion Picture Society

home of the world's longest-running non-commercial film festival

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### TECH TIP: Batteries on Planes

Since 1st January 2008 loose Lithium-Ion batteries have not been allowed in hold baggage on flights in the USA.

Modern batteries of this type (like the ones which power most camcorders, portable power-tools and the like) are very powerful indeed. If they are shorted accidentally, or damaged, during baggage handling they can get very hot indeed and start a fire.

**You can** put into hold baggage pieces of equipment with the batteries fitted in place and the kit turned off.

**You can** carry spare batteries in hand-baggage ... but make sure you put tape over the exposed terminals and carry each one in a separate sealable clear plastic bag. It is all too easy to drop one in a pocket or bag alongside keys, coins and jewellery which could short the terminals.

The theory here is that if a battery fire should start in the cabin it will be spotted at once and the flight attendants can use fire-extinguishers on it.