



Hybrid Battery Storage System (Image by Ysc Usc)

Big batteries could be bigger bombs than Beirut fertilizer

By [Joanne Nova](#) | July 16th, 2021 | [Energy](#) | [121 Comments](#)

It turns out storing Megawatts of high density energy in a confined space is “like a bomb”. Who could have seen *that* coming, apart from everyone who understands what a megawatt is?

Clean, green, noisy and explosive.

And they are “unregulated” in the UK.

[GWPF](#)

[UK's giant battery 'farms' spark fears of explosions that can reach temperatures of 660C](#)

Amy Oliver *Mail on Sunday*

...according to a troubling [new report](#) from leading physicists, these vast batteries amount to electrical bombs with the force of many hundreds of tons of TNT.

With the potential for huge explosions, fires and clouds of toxic gas, they could devastate towns and villages nearby, says Wade Allison, emeritus professor of physics at Oxford University and co-author of the report.

The batteries, designed as reservoirs of spare electricity for when the wind doesn't blow or the sun fails to shine, are spreading around the British countryside. And this, says Prof Allison and his fellow scientists, could spell catastrophe.

It's like a potential bomb,' he says. 'When batteries catch fire, you can't just squirt water on them and put out the flames. It's evident from our research that nothing has been done to tackle this problem.'

Given the size of the proposed plants, Prof Allison says this could, in theory, lead to an explosion several times bigger than the one that destroyed the harbour in Beirut last year.

The threat of fire is not merely theoretical. South Korea saw 23 battery farm fires in just two years. A recent battery fire in Illinois burned for three days and thousands of residents were evacuated.

Such blazes release highly toxic gases. One – hydrogen fluoride – is lethal if inhaled, and causes irreversible health effects after an hour of exposure, according to Public Health England.

Meanwhile [3 – 4,000 people](#) were evacuated in Morris Illinois the week before last, as 100 tons of batteries burned. The fire burned for days. They could not use water or foam, and in the end, the [burning batteries were smothered with 28 tons of cement](#).

These were run of the mill cell-phone and car batteries.

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