

# SAFETY ALERT

WHS-ALERT-002-2015

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Area of Concern:** All JCU Staff & Home Safety

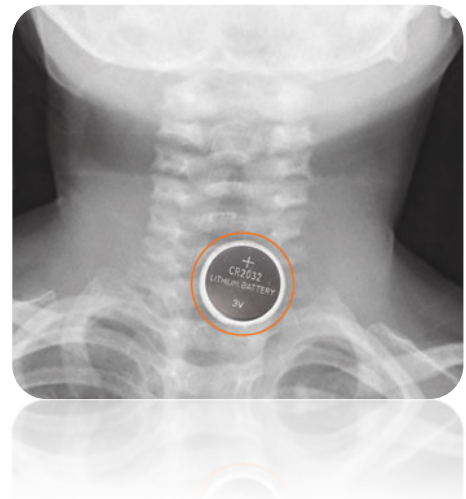
## Lithium Button Battery Safety

It is important to remember this holiday season that with the arrival of new toys for young and old we take note of the risk they might pose to family members.

Coin-sized lithium button batteries can be found everywhere. They are often in television remotes, bathroom scales, flameless candles, children's toys, watches, cameras, calculators, musical books and greeting cards etc. These batteries can often be accessible when loose, in packaging or from products with accessible battery compartments.

### What are the hazards?

If swallowed, the button can lodge in the throats of children. Saliva triggers an electrical current in the battery, causing a chemical reaction that can severely burn through the oesophagus in as little as two hours.



### What to do:

- If swallowing of a button battery is suspected, go to the emergency room immediately;
- Do not let the child eat or drink and do not induce vomiting;
- Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for additional treatment information.

### Action to prevent future incidents:

- Examine devices and make sure the battery compartment is secure;
- Store button batteries like you would any medication – out of reach of children;
- Dispose of old button batteries immediately.

### Tell others about this threat and share these steps

You can access further information about lithium button batteries at:

<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/batterycontrolled>