

Apple to Recall 1.8M Laptop Batteries Worldwide for Overheating

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SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Computer Inc. (AAPL) will recall 1.8 million lithium-ion notebook computer batteries after nine devices overheated, causing minor burns to two users, U.S. safety regulators said on Thursday. The recall is the second-biggest in U.S. history involving electronics or computers. Just last week, No. 1 PC maker Dell Inc. (DELL) recalled 4.1 million lithium-ion batteries.

The move brings to nearly 6 million the number of notebook batteries recalled in the past 10 days and highlights the potential hazards of lithium-ion batteries, which also power a wide range of portable devices, including music players and cell phones, analysts said. In Apple's case, however, there were no reported notebook fires, while several of the recalled Dell computers had erupted in flames. Dell had reports of six batteries overheating, but no injuries were reported.

About 100 million notebook computers are sold annually and are the fastest growing segment of the personal computer market. The Japanese electronics company said the Apple and Dell recalls would cost Sony between 20 billion yen and 30 billion yen, or \$172 million to \$258 million. Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple will recall 1.1 million batteries sold with notebook computers in the United States and 700,000 abroad, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

Roger Kay, president of market researcher Endpoint Technologies Associates, said the affected Sony battery cells may overheat or catch fire when tiny metal fragments, remnants of the manufacturing process, break loose and cause short-circuits. Dell also pointed to "contamination" in the Sony battery cells as the cause of its problems.

1. In paragraph form, compare and contrast the differences and similarities between the first and second largest recalls in U.S. History involving electronics or computers.
2. Currently, there are about 670 million personal computer users in the world; a figure projected to reach one billion by the year 2010. Assuming the estimated population of the world is 6,539,690,133 (U.S. Census Bureau) express this relationship as a ratio, decimal, and percentage.
3. In accordance with the passage above only, about how many Japanese yen are in a U.S. dollar?
4. What relationship is conveyed by the answer in question three? For example, "The U.S. dollar is *more or less* valuable than the Japanese yen which means....."
5. Assume the retail price of the laptops were approximately \$879 each plus \$44 shipping and handling. Create an input-output table that shows the cost (c) of laptops (l) when x = 100,000; 1,000,000; 150,000,000; 200,000,000 and 1,800,000. Use the following equation as your primary function: $c = 44 + 879l$
6. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the red "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. In paragraph form, summarize this edition of *The Daughtry Times*.
8. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *regulators*, *remnants*, *contamination*.
9. In paragraph form, explain five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*.