

The Hoboken Fire Department offers best practices for lithium-ion batteries

As e-bicycles and e-scooters become more popular across the state and nation, the Hoboken Public Safety Department and the Hoboken Fire Department are looking to better educate the public on how to best use these devices and safely charge the lithium-ion batteries that power them.

Hoboken Fire Marshal Captain Steven DiVincent says many of the risks related to lithium-ion batteries are preventable, with education and awareness. He encourages those in the market for an e-bike or e-scooter to buy only those that are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. When charging, residents should only use the battery, power adapter, and power cord supplied with the device, or a manufacturer-recommended replacement. Lithium-ion batteries and chargers that are not designed to work with the product can overcharge, overheat, and catch fire.

DiVincent also reminds users to plug the e-bike directly into an electrical wall outlet when charging, and never charge a device with an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat and cause a fire. If possible, residents should not charge their e-bike or e-scooter inside their apartment, and never charge them overnight, or when they are not home. Devices should not be charged near anything combustible including their bed, couch, and curtains.

Residents should stop using their electric device and call 9-1-1 or Hoboken Fire Dispatch at 201-420-2007 immediately if they notice the following:

- Fire or Smoke
- Battery overheating
- Change in battery shape or color
- Battery leaking
- Strange battery smell
- Battery making odd noises

When lithium-ion batteries fail or overheat they release toxic gases that can spark a fast-spreading fire that is difficult to extinguish. In the event of a fire, residents should make sure they have a way out of their home and close all doors behind them when evacuating. Closed doors will help contain smoke and fire to the room/apartment and keep public hallways clear long enough to allow others to get out, and firefighters to get in.

Please be advised that many other common devices, including smart phones, laptops, cameras, portable chargers and certain medical equipment also use lithium-ion batteries. Users of those items should be extra cautious when charging and follow similar guidelines to stay fire safe.

To learn more about the Hoboken Fire Department, go to <http://www.hobokennj.gov/departments/hoboken-fire-department> or follow the department on Twitter at @HobokenFire.

SAFELY STORE E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

Lithium batteries in electric bicycles and scooters create a fire hazard if not stored or used properly.



Stay Safe When Charging

- ✓ Charge in a cool room out of direct sunlight and away from your building's exit
- ✓ Only use a manufacturer's charging cable
- ✓ Discontinue use if you notice smoke or smell an odor
- ✓ Never purchase second-hand or refurbished batteries
- ✓ Disconnect when charging is complete

