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NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 Fire and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin
For New York City Apartment Buildings

APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE SAFETY

E-Bike Fire Safety (Fire Safety Hazards Associated with Powered Mobility Devices)



There have been over 140 e-bike and other lithium-ion structural fires in New York City in the first 10½ months of 2022 alone. Six persons died and 140 persons were injured in these fires. Apartments have been severely damaged.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT E-BIKE FIRE SAFETY
(SEE NEXT PAGE)

E-bikes, scooters, hoverboards and other mobility devices powered by lithium-ion batteries have become popular. Many people store and charge them in their apartments. However, the devices' lithium-ion batteries and chargers present serious fire safety hazards.

**Immediately stop charging your e-bike
and call 911 if you notice:**

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

Powered Mobility Device Fire Safety

BUY only e-bikes or other mobility devices that are **CERTIFIED** by nationally recognized testing laboratory. Look for symbols such as UL, ETL and CSA.

- **WHY?** The laboratories test these products to make sure they meet industry standards and are safe to operate under normal circumstances.

USE the original battery, power adapter and power cord supplied with the device, or a manufacturer-recommended and/or a testing laboratory-certified replacement.

- **NEVER** use unapproved batteries/chargers, even if they are much less expensive.
- **WHY?** Unapproved batteries or chargers may not be designed to work with an e-bike or e-bike battery.
- **RESULT:** An unapproved battery may overcharge, overheat and catch on fire.

PLUG the e-bike directly into an electrical wall outlet when charging.

- **NEVER** charge an e-bike or e-bike battery with an extension cord or power strip.
- **WHY?** Lithium-ion battery charging requires a lot of electrical current, more than most extension cords and power strips can handle.
- **RESULT:** The extension cord or power cord can overheat and cause a fire.

CHARGE your e-bike or other device in a safe facility, not in your apartment, if possible. Ask your building or employer if they can provide a safe charging and storage facility.

- **WHY?** Lithium-ion batteries store a lot of energy and when they overheat they release intense energy. Most apartments are unsprinklered and many furnishings and household items are highly combustible.
- **RESULT:** A fire in your apartment can be devastating.

MAKE SURE you have a way out of the apartment in the event of fire!

- **NEVER** charge your e-bike next to the apartment entrance door or any other place where it could prevent your escape.

MONITOR your e-bike or e-bike battery when it is being charged.

- **READ** the manufacturer's charging and storage instructions and follow them.
- **NEVER** charge the battery overnight or when you are not in the apartment.
- **NEVER** charge an e-bike or e-bike battery on or near your bed or couch, or close to drapes, papers or other combustible materials.