

VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief John T. Judge

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY TIPS



In recent years, the fire service has become all-too-familiar with the threat posed by lithium-ion batteries. They are in our smartphones, laptops, toys, scooters, and electric cars; we are surrounded by them at virtually all times. Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective or when they are damaged, or used incorrectly, these batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode. Lithium-ion battery fires also give off toxic gases and burn extremely hot.

As the fire service continues to work on this growing problem, here are some safety tips for everyone to be mindful of when it comes to lithium-ion batteries including e-bikes and e-scooters:

- *Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories; this mark shows that the product was safety tested.
- *Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- *Only use the original battery, power adapter, and power cord that came with the device.
- *Never charge using an extension cord or power strip; plug the device directly into the electrical wall outlet.
- *Do not continue to charge a device or battery after it is fully charged.
- *Never charge the device or device battery overnight or when you are not home.
- *Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- *Do not charge a device while it is under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- *Keep batteries at room temperature and store away from anything that can catch fire.
- *Do not place in direct sunlight.

*Store E-Bike/ Scooters and batteries in a safe facility and not in your house / apartment, if possible. If you must store the E-Bike / Scooter and batteries in your home / apartment, keep them away from exit doors and anything that can get hot and catch fire. Never store the E-Bike / Scooter and batteries near a source of heat, such as space heaters, radiators, furnace, etc.

*If a battery overheats or you notice an odor, change in shape/color, leakage, or odd noises from a device, discontinue use immediately. If safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire and call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal:

Recycle batteries by taking them to a battery recycling location. Please do not dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Additional disposal instructions can be found at www.call2recycle.org.

For further information, please visit the Village of Ridgewood Fire Department's website at rfd.ridgewoodnj.net.