

Verona Fire Prevention Bureau

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Office of the Fire Official

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Fire Prevention Bureau Advisory Notice

Subject: Household Lithium Ion Battery Safety

Lithium Ion battery usage is at an all-time high for newer electronics, electric bicycles, electric scooters, and various other items. When improperly stored, damaged, or defective, these batteries can explode and catch fire creating a potentially dangerous hazard inside of a household.

The New York City Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Investigation has identified nearly 100 fires this calendar year in New York City that have been caused by Lithium Ion batteries. These fires have caused millions of dollars in property damage, numerous civilian and first responder injuries, and four fatalities to date.

The problem of Lithium Ion battery fires is not isolated to New York City however, as many municipalities in New Jersey have seen their own fires related to these batteries.

The Verona Fire Prevention Bureau recommends the following safety tips with regards to Lithium Ion batteries, especially during the holiday season.

- Use only the manufacturer's recommended battery and charging cords/adapters to power your devices (electronics, bikes, scooters. etc.)
- Purchase devices that are lab tested by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Do not charge batteries in direct sunlight.
- Avoid overloading extension cords and power strips to charge batteries.
- Ensure that electric bikes and scooters are not stored in areas of egress within your home or apartment.
- Do not charge devices, bikes, scooters, etc. overnight while you are asleep.
- If you notice a battery or device (electronics, bikes, scooters, etc.) overheating, smoking, or emitting a discolored fluid, discontinue using the battery and contact the Verona Fire Department Dispatch at (973) 239-5000.

Any questions related to Lithium Ion Battery safety and potential hazards can be directed to Fire Investigator Connor McCann at (973) 857-4761 or cmccann@veronanj.org.