FFP CANTERBURY LTD

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS
BUILDING WARRANT OF FITNESS
WORKPLACE SAFETY SYSTEMS
EVACUATION MANAGEMENT



ELECTRIC BIKE & SCOOTER SAFETY

Electric bikes and scooters are proving more popular as a transport to from home to work and are seen more often around our cities. They are cheap to run, avoid traffic woes, are easy to store and have no parking hassles. Most use a lithium battery which if misused can catch fire or explode. This sheet offers important safety tips for the home and workplace.

Lithium batteries can overheat and catch fire, and when burning can be very challenging as the fire gives off toxic gases and they burn at high temperatures. A recent incident in a Wellington apartment left a person in critical condition when their e-scooter caught fire, and this is a timely reminder for all users:

- Only use the charger that came with the device. Do not over or under charge.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on charging and use.
- Don't leave the fully charged battery on charge for extended periods.
- Keep the batteries at room temperature and not below 0°C or above 35°C.
- Only use devices which have a listing by a recognised testing lab (UL, CE etc)
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight and keep them away from liquids.
- If stored loose, do not let the battery terminals short-circuit by contact with metal.
- Never tamper with or attempt to repair the battery or charger yourself.
- The batteries are most vulnerable if damaged get damaged batteries assessed by the manufacturer or agent without delay.
- Ensure the battery is away from insulating materials when charging keep well clear of soft furnishings and other combustible material.
- Don't store scooters and bikes in the egress paths of your workplace under the stairs is generally a bad spot.
- Never dispose of the batteries in the rubbish, as they are a significant fire risk in the refuse transport sector. Take them to a proper recycling depot.

Stop using your device immediately if you notice an unusual odour, if you notice the battery swelling or changing shape, or if the battery is unusually hot when charging or running. If the battery is leaking, smoking or even not keeping a charge then you may have a serious problem.

Lithium fires are very dangerous, they accelerate in intensity very quickly, they are highly toxic and extremely hot. Fire extinguishers are ineffective on lithium fires, so if you have a lithium battery catch fire:

- Leave the building immediately and warn others.
- Do NOT attempt to fight the fire.
- **Call 111 for Fire Service**. Advise them you have a lithium battery fire.

