



FDNY

FDNY Issues Warning in Wake of E-Bike Battery Fires

The department said four fires in one week were caused by lithium-ion batteries

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Charred remains of an electric bike batter shared by the New York City fire department.

Fire investigators issued a warning for e-bike riders Monday following an alarming pattern of battery-sparked fires in New York City.

The FDNY put out photos from four fires the department says were started by lithium-ion batteries all in the past week. The recent incidents have fire officials warning New Yorkers to be careful when charging and storing the batteries.



"Lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy and can pose a threat if not treated properly. Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode," the department said in a social media post.

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FDNY Fire Marshals have determined that four fires in the past week were caused by lithium-ion batteries in electric bikes. Read more: bit.ly/3pckV6d



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Firefighters responded to a fifth-floor fire of a Brooklyn building on Oct. 9, where 12 e-bikes were found charging. The FDNY reported four injuries related to the fire.



Three days later, one person was seriously injured in a 2-alarm fire when a fire broke out in a Bronx building. That same day another battery sparked a fire in Brooklyn, officials said.

The FDNY shared the following safety tips for lithium-ion batteries:

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- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and storage.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or a couch.
- Always use the manufacturer's cord and power adapter made specifically for the device
- Keep batteries/devices at room temperature. Do not place in direct sunlight.
- Store batteries away from anything flammable.
- If a battery overheats or you notice an odor, change in shape/color, leaking, or odd noises from a device discontinue use immediately.

These batteries are commonly used in cell phones, laptops, tablets, electric cars, and scooters.

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