



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INFORMATION BULLETIN 26-007

Issued: August 28, 2026

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

UPDATED AUGUST 28, 2026

This informational bulletin replaces the Office of the State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) Informational Bulletin-24-001: Lithium-Ion Battery Safety issued on January 23, 2024, and Informational Bulletin-23-003: Lithium-Ion Battery Safety issued on April 3, 2023. The update addresses the use of portable fire extinguishers involving lithium-ion battery fires.

BACKGROUND

Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries are commonly used in home electronics such as phones, batteries are small and powerful, but when used incorrectly, they can overheat, catch fire, or explode. Fire agencies across California continue to respond to fires caused by lithium-ion batteries.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STORAGE OF ELECTRONIC BIKES, SCOOTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC MICROMOBILITY DEVICES IN RENTAL HOUSING

California Civil Code (CIV) Section 1940.41 defines a "Personal micro-mobility device" as device with both of the following characteristics:

- (A) It is powered by the physical exertion of the rider or an electric motor.
- (B) It is designed to transport one individual, or one adult accompanied by up to three minors.

CIV 1940.41 that takes effect January 1, 2024, the new law affects storage of e-bikes, e-scooters, and other *personal micro-mobility devices* stored in a rental housing unit. The owner may prohibit the tenant from charging a device in the unit if the device does not meet the standards listed below. It allows for storage and charging of up to one e-bike, e-scooter, or other *personal micro-mobility device* in the rental unit for each person occupying the unit if the device meets one of the following:

- A. Complies with the following safety standards:
 - For e-bikes, UL 2849, the Standard for Electrical Systems for E-bikes, as recognized by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, or EN 15194, the European Standard for electrically powered assisted cycles (EPAC Bicycles).
 - For e-scooters, UL 2272, the Standard for Electrical Systems for Personal E-Mobility Devices, as recognized by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, or EN 17128, the European Standard for personal light electric vehicles (PLEV).
- B. Is insured by the tenant under an insurance policy covering storage of the device within the tenant's dwelling unit.



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INFORMATION BULLETIN 26-007

SAFETY TIPS

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by standards UL 2849, EN 15194, UL 2272, EN 17128 or a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the original charging cord from the manufacturer with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Plug directly into a wall electrical outlet for charging.
- Keep batteries at room temperature and away from heat or direct sunlight. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.
- Do not charge a device while sleeping.
- Do not charge a device near your primary exit.

STOP OPERATION OF THE DEVICE OR CHARGING THE BATTERY IF:

- They emit an unusual smell,
- Develop heat,
- Change shape/geometry,
- Behave abnormally, or
- Develop a leak or make an odd noise.

If any of the above happens and you feel in danger, call 9-1-1. If safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire.

BATTERY DISPOSAL

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- There are currently no ANSI/UL standards for testing and listing portable fire extinguishers for the extinguishment of lithium-ion battery fires.
- Portable fire extinguishers intended for fires involving lithium-ion batteries should be selected and installed to prevent the spread of fire to surrounding materials such as paper, cardboard, and plastics. For this purpose, a standard ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher is appropriate.



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INFORMATION BULLETIN 26-007



Use approved batteries

Only purchase and use devices that have a reputable testing agency mark such as UL. These show that the product has been safety tested.



Use supplied charger

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and storage. Use the correct cord and power adapter made specifically for the device.



Use the wall outlet

Always plug directly into a wall electrical outlet for charging.



Make sure you can get out

Never block your primary way in or out of a room/apartment.



Store in open space

Batteries should be stored away from anything flammable (ex. pillow, bed, or couch).



No overnight charging

Do not leave devices unattended while charging or charge them overnight.



Keep away from heat

Keep batteries and devices at room temperature. Keep away from direct sunlight and any heat source such as a radiator.



Dispose of batteries safely

Do not place lithium-ion batteries in a trash or recycling bin.



Use baterías aprobadas

Sólo compre y use dispositivos que tengan una marca de agencia de pruebas acreditada, como UL. Estos muestran que el producto ha sido probado en seguridad.



Utilice el cargador suministrado

Siga las instrucciones del fabricante para la carga y el almacenamiento. Utilice el cable y el adaptador de corriente correcto fabricado específicamente para el dispositivo.



Use el tomacorriente de pared

Siempre conecte directamente a un tomacorriente de pared para cargar.



Asegúrate de poder salir

Nunca bloquee su entrada o salida principal de una habitación/apartamento.



Almacenar en espacio abierto

Las baterías deben almacenarse lejos de cualquier objeto inflamable (p. ej., almohadas, camas o sofás).



No Cargar durante la noche

No deje los dispositivos desatendidos mientras se cargan, ni los deje cargando durante la noche.



Manténgala alejada del calor

Mantenga las baterías y los dispositivos a temperatura ambiente. Mantener alejado de la luz solar directa y de cualquier fuente de calor como un radiador.



Botar las baterías de forma segura

No coloque las baterías de Iones de Litio en un contenedor de basura o de reciclaje.