

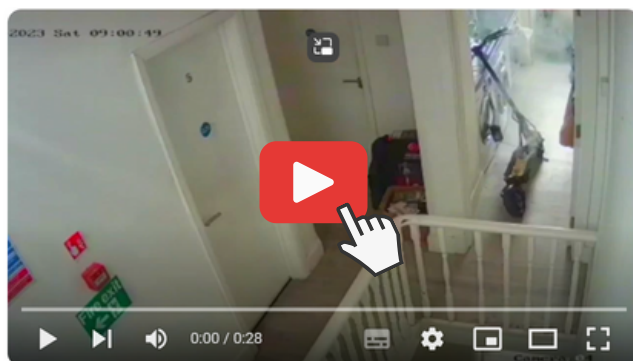
Reducing Fire Risk: E Bikes and E Scooters

Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London.

In 2023 London Fire Brigade were called to, on average, an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days, a significant increase since the previous year. In 2022, they attended 87 e-bike and 29 e-scooter fires, a total of 116 fires.

Whilst E-Bikes and E-Scooters offer a great way round the city, if the batteries become damaged or begin to fail they can start incredibly ferocious fires. Lithium battery fires can spread quickly out of control, and within minutes have started a large fire, igniting combustible materials in close proximity.

When these batteries are charged in communal areas or escape routes, a fire breaking out can quickly block peoples ability to escape.



On average there was a fire every two days in 2023 in London. London Fire Brigade attended 143 e-bike fires along with 36 blazes involving e-scooters. Sadly, there were 3 deaths and around 60 injuries caused by these fires.

Many of these fires are caused by incompatible chargers, modifications to e-bikes, or faulty or counterfeit products which are purchased online. This includes chargers, lithium batteries and conversion kits for e-bikes.

London Fire Brigade's #ChargeSafe campaign wants to prevent fires in e-bikes and e-scooters and give simple safety tips to reduce the risk to the public and firefighters. Find out more:

[#ChargeSafe](#)

Reducing the Risks

- Reduce the risk of overheating
 - Batteries can get warm, allow them to cool before recharging
 - Always charge on a hard flat surface where heat can dissipate
 - Take care to avoid damaging a battery
 - Do not use a damaged battery
 - Never expose a battery to extreme temperatures
 - Check for any signs of a battery failing
- Follow the Instructions!
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions
 - Unplug chargers when finished
 - Only use the correct charger and only buy from reputable sellers - other sellers may not meet basic safety standards
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- Where to charge your batteries
 - Never block your escape route with e-bikes or e-scooters
 - Store and charge away from a main through route or exit
 - Never leave a battery charging when you are asleep
 - Make sure you have an escape plan in place in the event of a fire
 - Fit smoke alarms in the area you use



[LFB's Home Fire Safety Checker](#)

What to do if your lithium battery catches fire

If the device starts smoking or catches fire:

- **GET OUT!**
- raise the alarm and **CALL 999** immediately
- **STAY OUT** and **do not** try to tackle the fire yourself