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CPSC will hold public meeting on lithium-ion battery fire risks on July 27

On Tuesday, June 20, [a fire at a first-floor e-bike repair shop in New York City](#) spread to the apartments above. The Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) reported a total of nine victims in the early-morning fire. Four were killed, two are in critical condition, and a firefighter and EMT suffered minor injuries. The FDNY Commissioner reported the cause of the fire was lithium-ion batteries in the repair shop.

Last year, there were 220 fires in New York City started by lithium-ion batteries, with six deaths. So far this year they have caused 108 fires with 13 deaths.

Lithium-ion battery fires are such a pressing topic for today's fire service that they were the theme of this year's [Firefighter Safety Stand Down](#), which took place this week.

In a [June 15 podcast](#) interview with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the Chief of the FDNY discussed New York City's approach to mitigating the ongoing issue of residential building fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in micro-mobility devices. The FDNY has focused its fire safety education, investigations, and code enforcement efforts on the prevention of these fires. The FDNY Chief stressed during this interview that education and enforcement are not enough; part of the solution is new legislation at the state and federal level to ensure these high-energy consumer batteries meet safety standards and can be used safely.

The FDNY has been corresponding with the Consumer Product



Highlights

[CPSC will hold public meeting on lithium-ion battery fire risks on July 27](#)

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Safety Commission (CPSC) to form new regulations that will help to address the safety of these micro-mobility devices so that future fires can be prevented.

On June 6, the CPSC announced it will be holding [a meeting to solicit public input on lithium-ion battery safety](#). The meeting will focus on fires occurring in e-bikes and other micro-mobility products. It will also consider fire risks that may arise in the future with the growing consumer market for products containing similar batteries.

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format on **Thursday, July 27 at 10 a.m. EDT** and will conclude on the same day.

During the meeting, the Commission hopes to gather information from experts in consumer battery safety and fire prevention about potential standards and designs for batteries, battery management systems, and consumer products that might limit the risk of thermal runaway and fire.

This meeting will be a valuable learning experience for anyone who wants to become more informed on the fire hazards of consumer lithium-ion batteries, particularly the larger batteries that are now widely used in e-bikes and electric scooters (sometimes called hoverboards). These larger consumer batteries are also increasingly seen in home power tools and equipment; lawn mowers; and battery backup or emergency power sources coupled with power inverters, often seen used with solar panels.

The physical location for the July 27 meeting will be CPSC's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, but the meeting will also be accessible remotely to anyone who wishes to attend. All virtual attendees should register in advance via the [Webex registration form for the event](#). Those who wish to be a panelist or who wish to present their input during the meeting, whether virtually or in person, must register in advance and submit their request by **5 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 29, 2023**.

CPSC will be accepting written comments **through Monday, August 21, 2023**. Instructions on how to attend this meeting and submit written comments are provided in the [CPSC's Federal Register notice](#).

(Sources: [CPSC](#), [USFA](#), [CBS New York](#), [SafetyStandDown.org](#))

US Fire Administration



The U.S. Fire Administration operates the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC).

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or fema-emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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