

WILLIAM & MARY Shop Talk

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Fire Prevention Week
October 5 –11

CHARGE into Fire Safety™

Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

- BUY only listed products.
- CHARGE devices safely.
- RECYCLE batteries responsibly.



FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™

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Charge into Fire Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use every day—smartphones, laptops, electric scooters, skateboards, and even cars. While generally safe, these batteries can pose a fire or explosion risk under certain conditions.

To help keep our campus community safe, **Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), Parking Services, and Residence Life** have partnered to develop new strategies on the **storage, use, and charging** of **E-bikes, E-scooters, E-skateboards, and personal drones** inside campus buildings. We are taking proactive steps to reduce potential risks associated with these devices. **Currently, the storage, use, or charging of these devices mentioned above is not permitted in any campus buildings.** Your safety is our top priority.

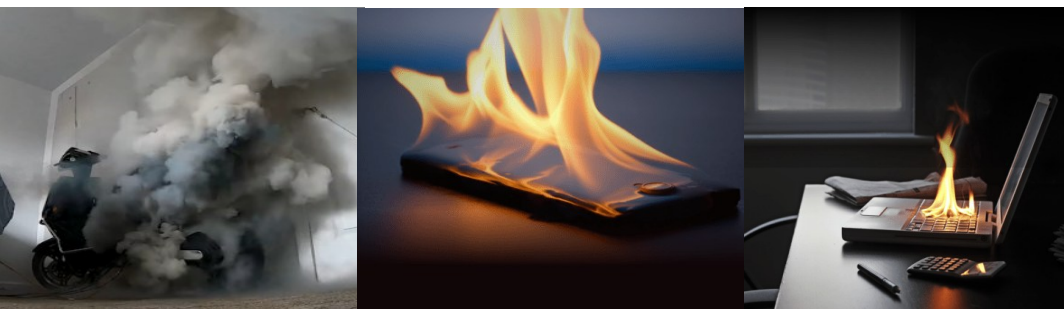
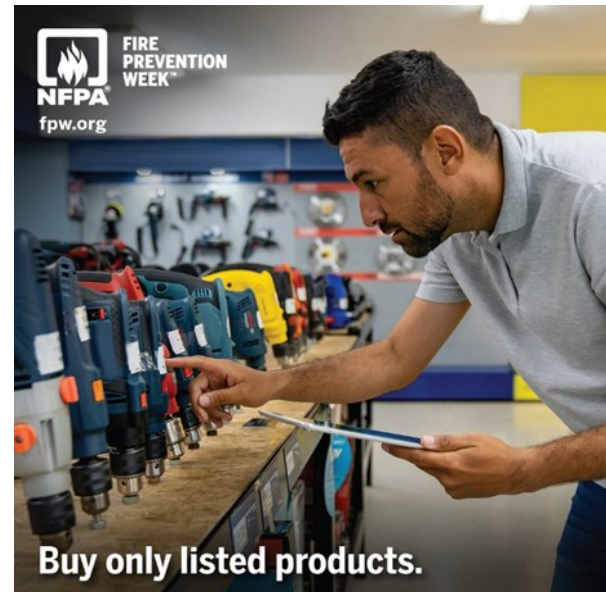
Buy Only Listed Products

Before you buy anything with a lithium-ion battery, do your homework. Check the packaging and product for a mark from a nationally recognized testing lab—that stamp means it meets real safety standards. A lot of products sold online and in stores don't, and that can seriously increase your risk of fire.

The Problem with Lithium Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are capable of storing a large amount of energy in a compact space, which makes them highly efficient but also potentially dangerous. Using devices that are not UL-listed or tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory increases the risk of malfunction or fire. In the event of a fire, standard fire extinguishers often have limited effect due to the intense self-generated heat from the battery. There have been multiple incidents where fires were thought to be extinguished, only for the battery to reignite hours or even days later.

To reduce the risk of fire or injury, always follow the manufacturer's instructions, use only the charging cord that came with the device, keep batteries at room temperature, and store them away from other flammable materials.





Don't trash batteries—find a safe drop-off spot to recycle @call2recycle.org

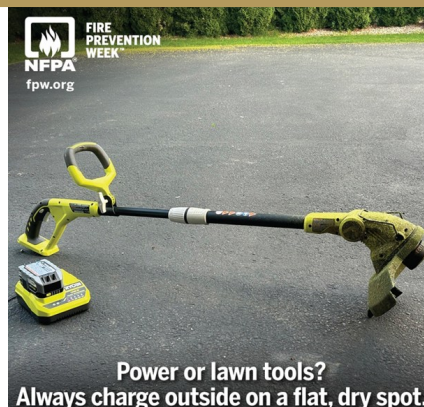
Battery Disposal

Lithium-ion batteries and devices **should never be thrown in the trash or regular recycling bins** — they can spark fires and pose serious safety risks.

- **Recycle the Right Way**—Drop off used batteries and battery-powered devices at a certified recycling location. It's safer and better for the environment.
 - **On Campus**—Contact Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) at safety@wm.edu for proper disposal options for University owned equipment.
 - **At Home**—Visit Call2Recycle.org to find a nearby battery drop-off location.
- Think safe. Recycle smart. Protect your campus and community

Good Habits

- When charging your **E-bike, E-scooter, or E-skateboard**, always choose a **flat, dry area outdoors**, away from **direct sunlight, water, and combustible materials**. Ensure the device is stable and secure to prevent it from tipping over during charging.
- **Only use the charger recommended by the manufacturer** for your device.
- **Power tools** should also be charged in a **safe, dry, and flat location**, away from heat, moisture, and flammable items. Again, always use the **manufacturer-approved charger**.
- **Never overcharge batteries**. Aim for a **partial charge of 80%–90%** to extend battery life and reduce the risk of overheating.
- If a battery isn't fully charged by the end of your shift, **unplug the charger** and **resume charging when you return**.



Good Habits

Devices powered by lithium-ion batteries — including phones, laptops, e-bikes, and power tools — can pose a fire risk if not charged properly. Follow these safety tips:

- **Charge at Room Temperature**—Always charge batteries in a cool, dry place. Avoid charging in extreme heat or cold, as this can damage the battery and increase fire risk.
- **Inspect Before You Plug In**—Check the battery for any signs of damage such as cracks, dents, swelling, or leaks. Do not charge a battery that appears damaged.
- **Use a Wall Outlet**—Plug chargers directly into a wall outlet—avoid extension cords or power strips, which can overheat.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice any warning signs like **odor, discoloration, overheating, bulging, leaking, or strange noises**.

- **If safe**, move the device away from anything flammable and contact EH&S at safety@wm.edu.
- **If a Battery Starts Smoking**: Avoid inhaling fumes and, if possible, disconnect the power. Activate the fire alarm, evacuate the area, close the door, and **CALL 9-1-1 immediately**.

Stay safe. Protect yourself and others.



Presented by Environmental Health & Safety—Fire Safety Office

204 South Boundary Street

Williamsburg, VA 23185

Please reach out to safety@wm.edu if you have questions, comments or concerns!



Shop/Department: _____

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A cartoon mascot of a bird, possibly a duck or goose, dressed as a construction worker. The bird is wearing a yellow hard hat, safety goggles, a yellow safety vest with 'HARK SAFETY' written on it, and blue pants. It is giving a thumbs up and has a long, thin tail.