



Policy Document

Mitigating risk of fire from lithium-ion batteries

Rechargeable lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are used in devices such as mobile phones, tablets and laptop computers, power tools, electric toothbrushes, stick vacuum cleaners, e-bikes, e-scooters, golf buggies, and toys. Though data is limited, there are increasing numbers of reports in the media of explosions/fires caused by faulty or misused Li-ion batteries, commonly from those in e-bikes and e-scooters.

Fires caused by Li-ion batteries are generally catastrophic due to the intense heat they create, their long burn time and capacity to reignite without warning. Currently available fire extinguishers are not effective against the fires.

The risk

The most devastating fires/explosions result from using lower quality, non-genuine batteries and chargers, or when e-devices have been repurposed or modified. Even good quality batteries can present a danger if they are old, overcharged, or exposed to heat or moisture.

Our policy

To mitigate the risk, the Board has decided to:

- Educate members and guests about Li-ion battery fires, and steps they can take to minimise risks, and what to do to ensure their personal safety should a fire start
- For the lodge, only purchase reputable brands of devices, and only use original or genuine batteries and chargers
- Limit battery charging times by installing countdown timers on powerpoints where batteries are being recharged (e.g. in cupboards housing the vacuum cleaners)
- Provide countdown timers in all bedrooms for use by members and guests when charging their personal devices (e.g. toothbrushes, mobile phones, laptop computers or tablets)
- Prohibit members and guests from bringing e-bikes and e-scooters that have been repurposed or modified, or that use non-genuine or third party batteries or chargers, into the lodge.

Date of effect

This policy is effective from 1 June 2024.

Revisions to this policy

The Board will monitor for the release of relevant data or reports, and may reassess risk and modify its policy. A separate implementation plan will provide detail of mitigation measures, and will be reviewed annually.

Consideration may be given to installing charging points outside the building, if more members and guests bring e-bikes or e-scooters to the Lodge.

Feedback

Members may comment on, or recommend changes to, this document by email to the Operations Officer hinoonops@gmail.com