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HOVERBOARD FIRES

WHAT CAUSES HOVERBOARD FIRES?

Over the last couple years, there has been a large number of stories concerning “hoverboard explosions” and “hoverboard fires”. Our goal at Atlantic Beach Fire Department is to ensure the public is educated on issues such as this so you can make informed decisions to help protect your child and your home.

Hoverboards do not really “explode”. They do, however, catch fire. The fires start in the battery pack. Hoverboards use Lithium ion batteries that contain different cells at 4.20V each. Sheets of Polypropylene or Polyethylene (electric insulators) separate the individual cells.

When one or more of the separating sheets are compromised through impact or overcharging, a short circuit occurs. The large current flowing through raises the temperature to the flash point of Lithium, and an intense, flaring fire ensues.

Most of the fires seem to happen during charging, because Lithium ion batteries cannot accept overcharge. Your hoverboard’s charger features a cut-off mechanism which detects when the battery is charged, and stops the charging process automatically. **Defects in this cut-off mechanism may lead to overcharging of the cells and result in a fire.**

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT HOVERBOARD FIRES?

The best way to prevent hoverboard fires is to buy from a trusted manufacturer that used high quality components.

Another important way is to monitor the charging process, at least when you charge the smart balance wheel for the very first time (as opposed to plugging it in overnight and going to sleep).

In addition, make sure you have a good quality charger, even if you have to purchase one that did not come with your hoverboard.

While this won’t prevent fires caused by piercing of the battery pack, it will definitely prevent the most destructive fires; the ones caused by overcharging (which mostly seem to happen during the night while you’re charging the hoverboard). This can lead to fires inside your home which can cause significant property damage and endanger the lives of your family.

Another good way to avoid fires is to simply be careful with your hoverboard. Don’t drop it, kick it or hit sharp objects with it. Any of these things can damage the separator sheets in the battery pack and cause a fire. This is unlikely, but if the board’s construction isn’t solid, it is a possibility.

For more information, please visit the link below:

- [HOVERBOARD SAFETY TIPS](#)