

# MAYOR OF LONDON

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## OVERVIEW

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- The role of the GLA and LFB / governance
- Risks and issues associated with lithium-ion batteries in London
- LFB campaign on lithium-ion batteries
- Working across GLA policy areas to tackle the issue

# BACKGROUND – LFB AND ROLE OF THE MAYOR

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- London Fire Brigade is the largest fire and rescue service (FRS) in the UK and operates within a complex and challenging environment.
- The Mayor of London is responsible for overseeing LFB. This means the Mayor appoints the London Fire Commissioner, sets LFB's budget and approves LFB's Community Risk Management Plan.
- The Deputy Mayor carries out scrutiny and assurance work, and plays a critical role in LFB's decision making.
- The Mayor also has responsibilities for housing, transport, planning, the environment and policing and crime.

# RISKS AND ISSUES IN LONDON

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- Lithium-ion batteries are the fastest increasing risk trend in London.
- Most fires related to e-bikes and e-scooters have happened in homes. These fires are often caused when charging batteries.
- There is also a **clear equalities issue**; people from all backgrounds use e-bikes, however, people on low incomes were more likely to report being regular users of e-bikes and e-scooters, and therefore at higher risk.
- This includes people who work for food delivery companies using e-bikes as part of their work, or people living in HMOs or high-rise properties who are likely to charge them in hallways and communal areas.

# LFB #CHARGESAFE CAMPAIGN

**#ChargeSafe:** Keeping your home safe when you charge your e-bike or e-scooter.



The majority of fires related to e-bikes and e-scooter have happened in homes. These fires are often caused when charging batteries.

How can you reduce the risk of fire when you charge an e-bike or e-scooter?

### There a number of ways you can reduce the risks when charging lithium batteries:

- Reduce the risk of overheating
- Batteries can get warm during their use. Allow them to cool down before attempting to re-charge.
- Batteries should always be charged on hard flat surfaces where heat can dissipate.
- Batteries can also pose a risk if they have been damaged, so try to ensure they are not getting knocked around while in use or while being carried. Do not continue to use a damaged battery.
- Batteries should also never be exposed to extremes of temperature.
- Keep an eye out for warning signs that your battery might be failing and becoming a fire risk.

### Follow the instructions

- Always follow manufacturers' instructions when charging.
- You should always make sure you unplug your charger once it's finished charging.
- Always use the correct charger for your batteries and buy any replacements from a reputable seller.
- Make sure your battery and charger meet UK safety standards

### Where to charge your batteries

- Never block your escape route with e-bikes or e-scooters.
- Store and charge them somewhere away from a main through route or exit.
- Never leave it charging unattended or charge it while you are asleep.
- Make sure you and your family have an escape plan in place in the event of a fire.
- Fit smoke alarms in the area where you charge your batteries.

[Read more #ChargeSafe advice](#)

**The dangers of e-bikes & e-scooter batteries >**

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.

**E-bike conversion kits could be putting you at risk >**

Batteries purchased online might not necessarily adhere to UK safety regulations are more likely to fail and cause a fire.

**Sofia's Story >**

On New Year's Day in 2023 an electric bike fire would devastate Sofia Duarte's family

**ChargeSafe >**

The battery in your electric bike or electric scooter could be putting you at risk. Learn about what you can do to protect yourself and others.

# CROSS WORKING TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

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- Issues relating to fire safety and the built environment cut across different policy areas within the GLA, from Environment to Housing to Planning.
- For example, cycling in general, and e-bikes, are a significant part of the Mayor's sustainable transport strategy. It's necessary to ensure all parts of the GLA are working together.
- A huge challenge is therefore the speed at which product innovation is happening. In many places, this is coming well before the necessary safety standards are in place.
- In his manifesto, the Mayor committed to continue to lobby for government regulation of lithium-ion battery powered e-bikes and e-scooters.

# LFB #CHARGESAFE CAMPAIGN

THIS FIRE TOOK HOLD IN UNDER 5 SECONDS



#ChargeSafe ⚡

E-bikes and e-scooters are  
London's fastest growing  
**FIRE RISK**



For advice on how to keep  
yourself and those around you  
safe, scan the QR code or visit:  
[london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe](https://london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe)

**LFB**  
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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