



University of New Haven

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Title:

**Restriction on Lithium-Ion
Battery Motorized
Personal Transportation
Vehicle (MPTV) Policy**

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Responsible Office: Department of Public Safety

Responsible Official: Associate VP of Public Safety & Administrative Services

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1.0 Introduction

1.1. Purpose

University leaders have become increasingly concerned about the use of lithium-ion battery motorized personal transportation vehicles (MPTV), such as e-scooters and other electric-transportation devices on campus, especially regarding ensuring the health and personal safety of riders, pedestrians, and building occupants.

Recharging lithium batteries in such vehicles has resulted in numerous fires around the United States and MPTV accidents have caused serious injuries on college campuses across the country.

This policy minimizes the risks associated when operating Motorized Personal Transportation Vehicles and known hazards created with lithium-ion batteries overheating, catching fire, or exploding.

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, and students, including those residing on campus and at university-affiliated properties. It encompasses all university campuses, facilities, and properties owned or operated by the university, and it is applicable at all times, both during university-related activities and in all locations under the university's jurisdiction.

2.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
ADA-Assisted Transportation Device	Any assistive technology, motorized or non-motorized, that aids the movement of people with physical impairments. Includes, but is not limited to, wheelchairs, self-propelled wheelchairs, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) scooter devices
E-Bike	Bicycle equipped with an electric motor that may be activated in order to assist with or replace pedaling.
Lithium-Ion (Li-ion) Battery	Type of rechargeable battery composed of cells in which lithium ions move from the negative electrode through an electrolyte to the positive electrode during discharge and back when charging. These cells use an intercalated lithium compound as the material at the positive electrode, and typically graphite at the negative electrode.

<p>Motorized Personal Transport Vehicles (MPTV)</p>	<p>Vehicle or device used for human transport that does not require a license to operate and is powered by lithium-ion batteries, which includes, but is not limited to, hoverboards, electric scooters, e-bikes, self-balancing boards, self-balancing scooters, electric skateboards, or drifting boards.</p>
<p>Thermal runaway</p>	<p>One of the primary risks related to lithium-ion batteries. It is a phenomenon in which the lithium-ion cell enters an uncontrollable, self-heating state.</p> <p>Thermal runaway can result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ejection of gas, shrapnel and/or particulates (violent cell venting) • Extremely high temperatures • Smoke • Fire

3.0 Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are found in most electronic devices including cell phones, laptops, tablets, electric toothbrushes, and electronic scooters. There is an increased risk of fires and even explosions when these are damaged or improperly used, charged, or stored (see “thermal runaway” in section 2.0). Fires involving lithium-ion batteries also [have](#) the added danger of releasing toxic gases. Only purchase batteries listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and labeled accordingly. Consult the UNH Fire Safety Policy for additional information.

3.1. Damaged Batteries

Any lithium-ion batteries or devices that display signs of pending thermal runaway (e.g., bulging, off-gassing, high temperature production, etc.) are an immediate danger to life and health, and shall require notification to University on New Haven Police. Consult the UNH Fire Safety Policy for additional information.

4.0 Policy Statement

All MPTV are prohibited from being operated, stored, or charged inside of any building

or on a property owned, maintained, or controlled by the University of New Haven. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- E-bikes
- Electric scooters
- Hoverboards (self-balancing scooters)

This policy is intended to minimize the risk associated with lithium-ion batteries overheating, catching fire, or exploding while charging or riding.

4.1. Exemption

Electric mobility aids for individuals with disabilities (approved by ARC -students or Human Resources – faculty staff) and items used in approved and supervised research activities are exempted from this MPTV ban. However, prior approval is required.

5.0 Removal Procedures

Anyone found to be in possession of these items will be asked to remove them from the property immediately.

If this is not possible, Office of Residential Life (ORL) staff will escort the owner to containers marked “ORL” located outside the gatehouse where the MPTV will be impounded for safekeeping until it is able to be removed from UNH property.

For security, these containers are kept locked at all times by the University Police Department (UPD).

- To access, ORL staff may retrieve the key for the storage unit from the UPD dispatch center, which operates 24/7.
- UPD will document the MPTV owner’s name and the MPTV ID number, or other identifying information.
- Once the item is placed in the storage unit, the key must be returned immediately to the dispatch center.

- This process can be applied in reverse when it is time to retrieve the MPTV to remove it from UNH property.

6.0 Consequences of Non-Compliance

Violations of this policy may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with their affiliation to the university below and can be reported through the LiveSafe App. University building supervisors, managers (e.g., Residential Life, Department Heads, Athletics Staff, etc.), and their designees, will support compliance and enforcement of this policy by notifying occupants and visitors of policy violation.

6.1. Students

Students shall be referred to the Dean of Students Office for violation of Student Handbook, Housing Contract and University Policy [Student Handbook](#).

6.2. Employees

Employees shall be referred to Human Resources for violation of University Policy [UNH Policies](#).

6.3. Visitors

Visitor shall be referred to the University of New Haven Police for violation of University Policy.

7.0 Supporting Documents

Owner	Title
University of New Haven	Student Handbook Public Safety Policies Fire Safety Policy

8.0 Contact Information

Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Role	Contact
Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services	Ron Quagliani 203-932-7147 rquagliani@newhaven.edu
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UNH Police Department	203-932-7070