

Liberty University Policy

Battery and Fuel Operated Pedestrian Transportation Devices Ban



PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors by prohibiting the use and charging of e-batteries and fuel-operated pedestrian Transportation Devices, such as electric scooters and electric boards, on campus due to significant safety risks. Liberty University is committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment for our LU community.

POLICY STATEMENT

To mitigate risks associated with the operation and charging of e-battery and fuel-operated pedestrian transportation devices, these devices are strictly prohibited on all campus property, including but not limited to walkways, buildings, dormitories, and parking areas. This policy applies to all employees, students, volunteers, and employees of affiliated organizations who are paid by the University, as well as visitors to the institution. Employees include all staff, administrators, faculty, and classified or non-classified persons who are paid by the University, whether full-time or part-time. Students include all persons admitted to the University who have not completed a program of study for which they were enrolled; student status continues whether the University's programs are in session. Visitors include vendors and their employees, parents of students, volunteers, guests, uninvited guests, and all other persons located on property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the University.

EXCEPTIONS

This policy does not regulate accessibility-dependent devices such as wheelchairs or motorized chairs. This policy does not apply to divisions within the Liberty University Office of Security & Public Safety or to outside Emergency Response-operated units in the line of duty.

SAFETY CONCERNS

1. Riding Hazards:

- Electric scooters and boards pose a threat to pedestrian safety, particularly in high-traffic areas.
- Accidents involving these devices can lead to injuries ranging from minor scrapes to severe head trauma.
- Riders often exceed safe speeds, contributing to collisions with pedestrians or vehicles.

2. Lithium-Ion Battery Risks:

- Lithium-ion batteries used in these devices have been known to overheat, posing fire and explosion hazards.
- Charging scooters and boards indoors increases the risk of electrical fires, which may endanger students in residential buildings.
- Battery malfunctions can result in toxic fumes, requiring extensive fire safety measures.

DEFINITIONS

Abandoned Property - Property voluntarily relinquished or left by a person.

ADA Accessibility Ramp - Any ramp or inclined path used instead of stairs as the primary access to university grounds or facilities by individuals with accessibility needs (in compliance with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act).

Electronic Personal Assistance Mobility Devices (EPAMDs) - A self-balancing two-wheeled device with an electronic propulsion system, such as a Segway or a T-3.

Electric Power-Assisted Bicycle - A vehicle that travels on no more than three wheels in contact with the ground and is equipped with pedals that allow propulsion by human power and an electric motor with an input of no more than 1,000 watts that reduces the pedal effort required of the rider (Virginia Code § 46.2-100).

Electric Scooter - A narrow platform mounted on tandem wheels with a handle to steer by turning the front wheel and propelled with an electric propulsion system.

Moped - A motorized device with three wheels or fewer and a seat, with a motor rated at 1.5 horsepower or less, with a cylinder displacement of less than 50cc, a top speed of 35 mph, and requiring a state-issued license plate (Virginia Code § 46.2-100). This includes gas-powered-assisted bicycles and motored scooters that meet these criteria.

Liberty University Property (University property) - Land and facilities that are owned by Liberty University or controlled by Liberty University via leases or other formal contractual arrangements to house ongoing University operations.

Pathways/Sidewalks - All outdoor paved, planked, graveled, or other routes on university property or contiguous with university property that are not an automobile right-of-way, lot, garage, or loading zone.

Pedestrian – A person walking along a road or in a developed area.

Pedestrian Transportation Devices (PTDs) - also known as [personal transporters](#) or [micromobility devices](#), are small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances designed for individual transport, typically at slow speeds. They can be either human-powered or motorized and include items like electric scooters, skateboards, and Segways.

Self-Balancing Electric Wheeled Board - A type of portable, rechargeable personal mobility device that uses gyroscopic technology to allow an operator to balance on a small-wheeled platform. These devices are commonly referred to as "Hoverboards," but may also be referred to as Swagways, IO Hawks, and Skywalkers.

Site-furnishings - Elements of hardscape, paths, paving, foundations, trash receptacles, benches, landscaping, trees and vegetation, facilities, poles, posts, railings, ramps, artwork, and uninhabited extensions of buildings.

Battery-Operated Pedestrian Transportation Devices – For this policy, these vehicles include Electric Scooters, Electric Power-Assisted Bicycles, Electronic Personal Assistance Mobility Devices (EPAMDs), and Self-Balancing Electric Wheeled Boards, as described above, as well as any other similar devices not explicitly identified in this policy.

Fuel-Operated Pedestrian Transportation Devices – For this policy, these devices include Mopeds, Gas Motorized Bicycles, and a fuel-operated transportation device that is capable of being rolled or driven into a single doorway of any Liberty building/facility. This does not include motorcycles; however, motorcycles should never be driven into a LU building except for transportation repair bays.

Enforcement and Penalties

- The Office of Security & Public Safety, in collaboration with Residence Life, will enforce this policy.
- Violations and infractions will be reported first to the Liberty University Police Department. Students may also be reported to Residence Life for disciplinary action.
- Violators may face disciplinary action, including fines, confiscation of devices, and restrictions on campus privileges.

INFORMATIONAL REFERENCES

- <file:///C:/Users/gebennett1/Liberty%20University%20Dropbox/EHS%20Management/1.%20TRAINING%20Materials%20-%20Safety%20Programs%20and%20Procedures/Battery%20and%20Fuel%20Operated%20Pedestrian%20Transportation%20Devices/references/fire-hazards-associated-with-lithium-ion-batteries.pdf>
- [CBS News](#) reports that lithium-ion battery fires from electric scooters, bikes, and cars are increasing, posing challenges for firefighters.
- [EV Fire Safe](#) provides emergency response guidance for e-bike and e-scooter battery fires, highlighting the growing frequency of such incidents.
- [Scooter Guide](#) explains common causes of electric scooter fires, including battery failures and overheating issues.
- [CPSC](#) states that injuries related to e-scooters and e-bikes increased nearly 21% in 2022, with fractures and head injuries being common.
- [UC San Francisco](#) reports a surge in electric scooter and bike accidents across the U.S., with injuries doubling annually.
- [Forbes](#) highlights the rising number of e-bike and e-scooter injuries, emphasizing the need for improved safety measures.

Liberty University EHS Policy 25-001

Battery Powered and Fuel Operated Pedestrian Transportation Devices

Revision Tracking

Revision Number	Revision Description	Date Originated /Revised	Policy Author/Reviser:	Policy Approvers
Rev. 01	This revision bans the use of the devices on campus.	7/15/25	Greg Bennett	Dondi E. Costin, President Mark Hine, EVP Student Affairs Marcus Tinsley, VP OSPA