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NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 Fire and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin For New York City Apartment Buildings

APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE SAFETY

E-Bike Fire Safety

(Fire Safety Hazards Associated with
Powered Mobility Devices)



There have been over 140 e-bike and other lithium-ion structural fires in New York City in the first 10½ months of 2022 alone. Six persons died and 140 persons were injured in these fires. Apartments have been severely damaged.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT E-BIKE FIRE SAFETY
(SEE NEXT PAGE)

E-bikes, scooters, hoverboards and other mobility devices powered by lithium-ion batteries have become popular. Many people store and charge them in their apartments. However, the devices' lithium-ion batteries and chargers present serious fire safety hazards.

Immediately stop charging your e-bike and call 911 if you notice:

- Fire or Smoke
- Battery overheating
- Change in battery shape or color
- Battery leaking
- Strange battery smell
- Battery making odd noises

Powered Mobility Device Fire Safety

BUY only e-bikes or other mobility devices that are CERTIFIED by nationally recognized testing laboratory. Look for symbols such as UL, ETL and CSA.

- WHY? The laboratories test these products to make sure they meet industry standards and are safe to operate under normal circumstances.

USE the original battery, power adapter and power cord supplied with the device, or a manufacturer-recommended and/or a testing laboratory-certified replacement.

- NEVER use unapproved batteries/chargers, even if they are much less expensive.
- WHY? Unapproved batteries or chargers may not be designed to work with an e-bike or e-bike battery.
- RESULT: An unapproved battery may overcharge, overheat and catch on fire.

PLUG the e-bike directly into an electrical wall outlet when charging.

- NEVER charge an e-bike or e-bike battery with an extension cord or power strip.
- WHY? Lithium-ion battery charging requires a lot of electrical current, more than most extension cords and power strips can handle.
- RESULT: The extension cord or power cord can overheat and cause a fire.

CHARGE your e-bike or other device in a safe facility, not in your apartment, if possible. Ask your building or employer if they can provide a safe charging and storage facility.

- WHY? Lithium-ion batteries store a lot of energy and when they overheat they release intense energy. Most apartments are unsprinklered and many furnishings and household items are highly combustible.
- RESULT: A fire in your apartment can be devastating.

MAKE SURE you have a way out of the apartment in the event of fire!

- NEVER charge your e-bike next to the apartment entrance door or any other place where it could prevent your escape.

MONITOR your e-bike or e-bike battery when it is being charged.

- READ the manufacturer's charging and storage instructions and follow them.
- NEVER charge the battery overnight or when you are not in the apartment.
- NEVER charge an e-bike or e-bike battery on or near your bed or couch, or close to drapes, papers or other combustible materials.

APARTMENT BUILDING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

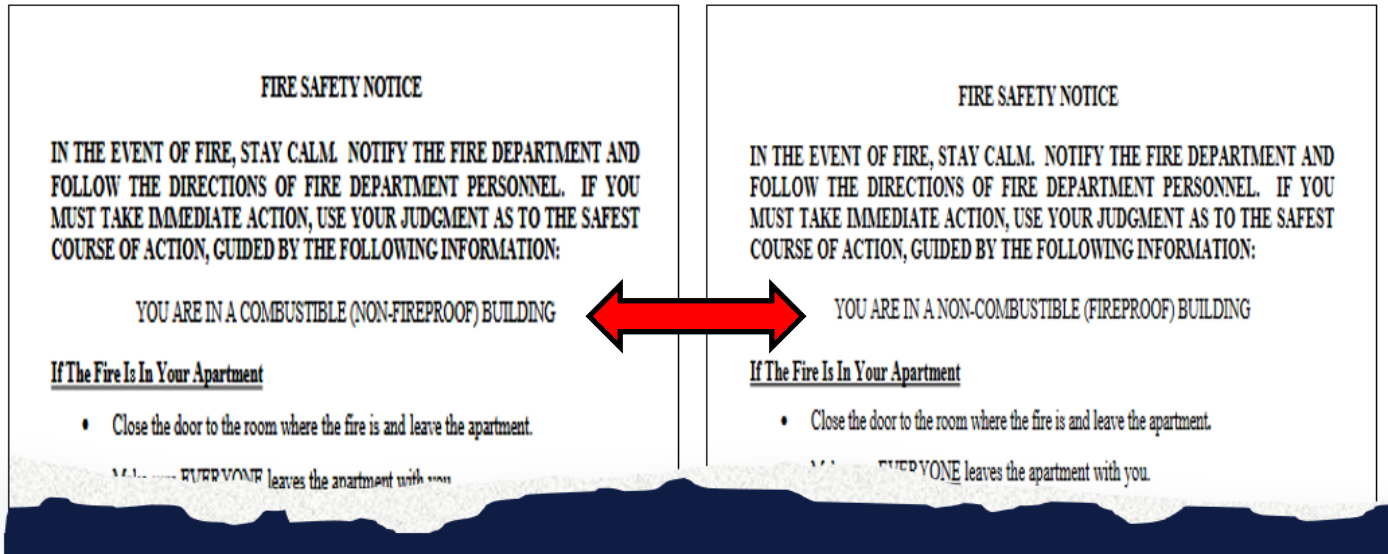
DO YOU HAVE A FIRE SAFETY NOTICE ON YOUR APARTMENT DOOR?

Your New York City apartment must have one of these **Fire Safety Notices** on the inside of the main door. The notice contains potentially life-saving guidance:

**"You are in a combustible
(non-fireproof) building."**

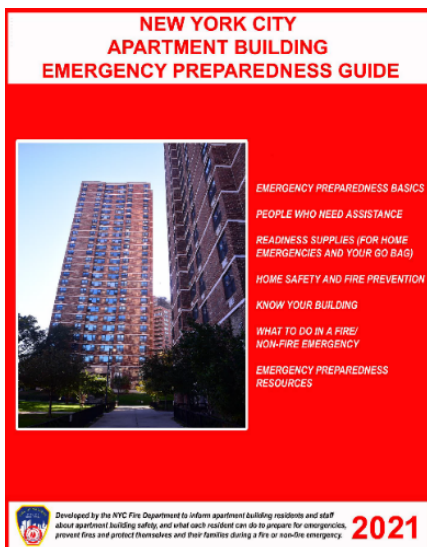
-OR-

**"You are in a non-combustible
(fireproof) building."**



Don't have one? Your building owner or manager must provide the correct Fire Safety Notice. If you do not have the notice on your apartment door, contact your building owner/manager or call 311.

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR APARTMENT BUILDING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE AND EVACUATION PLANNING CHECKLIST?



The 2021 New York City Apartment Building Emergency Preparedness Guide (including a Building Information Section) specific to your building) contains information about your building and what to do during a fire, storm, explosion, and other emergencies.

The Emergency Preparedness/ Evacuation Planning Checklist helps you plan for evacuation or sheltering in place.

NYC Apartment Building Individual Emergency Preparedness/Evacuation Planning Checklist
STEP #1: Educate Yourself About Emergency Preparedness
➤ Read the FDNY-issued NYC Apartment Building Emergency Preparedness Guide to learn about fires and other types of emergencies and how to prepare for them. You should receive the Guide from the building owner/manager at lease signing and once every 3 years, and it is available on the FDNY website (http://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/codes/fire-department-rules/fire-dept-rules.page). ➤ Review the Building Information Sheet provided with the Guide for information on your building's construction and fire protection systems and exits, and the fire safety notice the building owner/manager is required to post on your apartment entrance door. ➤ Sign up for emergency alerts at nyc.gov/notifynyc or download the app for Apple/Android users.
STEP #2: Prepare Your Evacuation Plan
➤ Complete the checklist below to develop an individual evacuation plan for you and your family. ➤ The checklist outlines recommended measures that you can proactively take to prepare to evacuate your building in an emergency. ➤ If you educate yourself about emergency preparedness and complete an evacuation plan, you will be ready to make an informed judgment as to the best course of action in an emergency.
A. Know Your Building - See Sections 5 and 6 of the Guide and your Building Information Sheet
Building Construction
☐ Non-combustible/fireproof
☐ Combustible/non-fireproof (check all that apply):
☐ My fire escape window opens easily

Didn't get a Guide or Checklist? Contact your building owner or manager, or notify the Fire Department by emailing FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov or calling 311. They're also posted on the Fire Department's website: www.nyc.gov/fdny (under Fire Code Help/Reference).

IN A FIRE, CLOSE THE DOOR!

You should be aware of the importance of closing all doors behind you when evacuating your apartment and floor in a fire. Why? A closed door helps contain smoke and fire in the apartment and keeps the public hallways clear of flames, heat and smoke long enough to allow others to get out and firefighters to get in.

Apartment and stairwell doors should be kept closed at all other times just in case.

Your apartment building should have posted **Close the Door Notices** on the hallway corridor side of all stairwell doors in your building:

In a Fire, Close All Doors Behind You!
Keep Fire and Smoke Out of Building Hallways and Stairs.

Keep Apartment and Stairwell Doors Closed at All Other Times.
Protect Your Neighbors and Your Home!



NYC Admin Code §15-135

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NYC Admin Code §15-135

No **Close the Door Notices** in your public hallways? Contact your building owner or manager, or notify the Fire Department by emailing FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov or calling 311 (ask for the Fire Department's Customer Service Center).