RUCKINGE NEWSLETTER FOR WEB SITE NOVEMBER 2024

1. **MY CONCERNS OVER E-SCOOTERS AND A DEVELOPING FIRE RISK IN COMMUNITIES ARE SET OUT IN THIS ARTICLE**

London Fire Brigade
19 Jul ·

Did you know, we attend an e-bike or e-scooter fire roughly every 48 hours? 🚲

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 within seconds.

We were very pleased to see the Product Safety and Metrology Bill in the King's Speech this week, which we hope will ensure better product regulation of devices such as these.

The majority of fires related to e-bikes and e-scooters have happened in homes, often caused when charging batteries, and sometimes charged in areas blocking escape routes.

Many of these fires are caused by incompatible chargers, modifications to e-bikes, or faulty or counterfeit products which are purchased online. This includes chargers, lithium batteries and conversion kits for e-bikes.

Here are some photos from incidents we have attended, showing the extent of the devastation that e-bike and e-scooter fires can leave in their wake.





London Fire Brigade
31 Jul ·

Ten people, including a baby who had to be dropped from the first floor window and caught by a member of the public, escaped a house fire before firefighters arrived in Ilford this weekend.

Part of the ground floor, an internal staircase and most of the first floor were damaged by the fire, which is believed to have been caused by the failure of a lithium-ion battery attached to an e-bike stored in the hallway.

The escape of the residents was largely aided by a builder who was driving by, quickly stopped and put up a piece of scaffolding as an improvised ladder to help the occupants to come down safely.

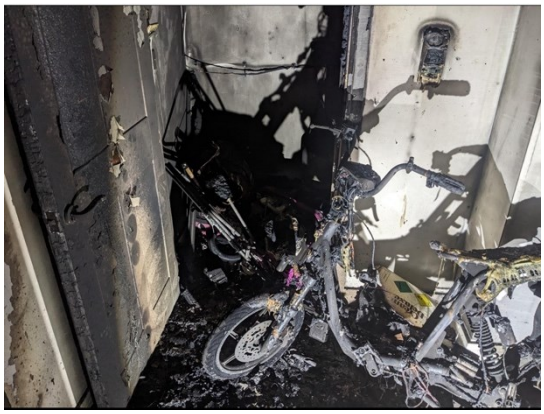
Control Officers received 12 calls about the fire, and crews were on the scene at 1013, with the fire being brought under control by 1150. Six fire engines and around 40 firefighters attended.

Three adults and one child were taken to hospital by London Ambulance Service crews, with a further four adults and two children assessed at the scene.

This fire is yet another example of the dangers e-bikes and e-scooters can pose if the battery fails catastrophically and catches fire. In this case, the e-bike was not on charge, but it was stored by the front door, impeding the occupants' escape.

For advise on how to safely charge and store your e-bike or e-scooter, please look at our #ChargeSafe page on our website.

Well done to all of our crews and blue light partners involved, and a huge well done to the builder who reacted quickly and helped residents to escape safely.









Kent Fire and Rescue Service
17 Jul ·

Crews are reminding people to be careful when charging electrical items, after an electric bike caught fire in #Maidstone

Here's some top tips on electrical safety:
⚡ Try not to leave items charging overnight or if you leave the house
⚡ Use recognised and recommended chargers and charging leads
⚡ Don't use damaged charging cables
⚡ Avoid over-charging items and over-loading plug sockets
⚡ Purchase electrical items from reputable suppliers
⚡ Place charging items on a non-flammable surface

More on this incident here:
https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/incident/flat-fire-maidstone



I am alerting residents to the potential fire risks which fire services are drawing to communities' attention.
More guidance can be found on Kent Fire & Rescue Service web page.
Sadly a fatal fire listed below in Faversham in August appears to have been caused by an e-scooter

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Ten fire engines, a command support unit, and a height vehicle were all sent to Salters Lane after the blaze broke out at 18 minutes after midnight Saturday.

Over the weekend, it was confirmed **a man in his 40s** had died at the scene.

It has since been revealed by the fire service that the "significant" blaze is thought to have been accidental and was "started by an e-scooter".

House fire in Faversham

30+ Incident Saturday 10 August 2024 00:18
Saturday 10 August 2024 20:20

Fire engines: 10

Partner agencies: Kent Police, KFRS Volunteer Response Team, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb)

Swale

Final update:

Firefighting operations have concluded.

Follow local highways authorities for road closure updates.

The cause of the fire is believed to be linked to an e-scooter.

CRIME COMMISSIONER'S SURVEY

I am appealing for residents to fill out the Police Crime Commissioner's survey which will help to shape the policing plan for Kent from 2025 going forwards.

It is essential residents in villages like Ruckinge submit their priorities for policing which will be different to the big urban areas of this growing County of Kent.

Rural areas have concerns over many types of crimes that will not be put into the plan if residents to not take a few moments to fill in.

Once the plan is written and issued it will form the base of meetings between the Chief constable and the crime commissioner.

The Crime Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account on the performance against the plan with regular performance reviews and quality assurance meetings.

Please just take a few moments to complete the survey.

It will greatly help and support my Neighbourhood Watch work.



The PCC launches a consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan - have your say!

The Police and Crime Commissioner is currently writing the new Police and Crime Plan, which sets the priorities Kent Police should follow. Matthew Scott wants to cut crime, to support victims and to build trust, but he wants to know what YOU witness and experience in your area. Do you feel safe? Do you trust the police? Please, have your say via our short, anonymous survey.

The survey is anonymous and will only take you a few minutes. We'd be very

grateful if you could fill it in:

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/