



Arlington County Fire  
Prevention Code Update

New Rules  
Regarding  
Shared Mobility  
Device Charging





# 2018 Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code

- Chapter 1 – Administration
  - § 101 – General
    - § 101.5 Local regulations - Any local governing body may adopt fire prevention regulations that are more restrictive or more extensive in scope than the SFPC provided such regulations do not affect the manner of construction or materials to be used in the erection, alteration, repair, or use of a building or structure, as provided in the USBC, including the voluntary installation of smoke alarms and regulation and inspections thereof in commercial buildings where such smoke alarms are not required under the provisions of the SFPC.
- Chapter 3 – General Requirements
  - § 301 – General
    - § 301.1 Scope - The provisions of this chapter shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire and general requirements of fire safety.



# Code of Arlington

- § 320 – Recharging and storage of personal electronic transportation devices. (Local regulation)

- § 320.1 - General

- Recharging and Storage of commercially owned personal electronic transportation devices, to include but not limited to scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, all classes of pedal and throttle assist bicycles, and roller blades is prohibited in multifamily dwellings.
- Except that the following are not subject to the above requirement:
  - 1. Wheelchairs and other ADA-related mobility aids or devices and traditional higher speed transportation devices such as cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles.
  - 2. Personally owned electronic transportation devices as listed above will be permitted at one device per 200 square feet.

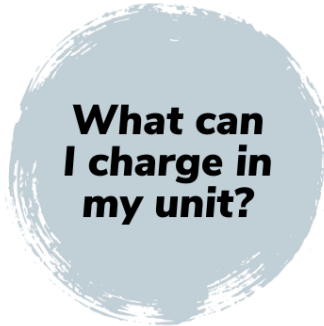
- 320.1.1 – Notification

- The person in control or management agent of multi-family residential occupancies shall notify their tenants or occupants in writing of the prohibitions outlined in Section 320.1 of this code. Such notification shall occur when the tenant or occupant initially occupies, renews a lease, and periodically thereafter as may be necessary to ensure compliance.



# Personal Electronic Transportation Devices (Micro-mobility)

## DOS AND DON'TS OF CHARGING ELECTRONIC TRANSPORTATION DEVICES



What can I charge in my unit?



**Commercial Devices**



**Personal Recreation Devices**



**ADA Mobility Devices**

**What are electronic transportation devices?**  
Electronic scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, pedal and throttle assisted bikes, and roller blades all count.

**What is a personal vs. commercial device?**  
Personal devices are the property of the resident. Commercial devices are the property of a business.



Scan this QR code or go to [Arlingtonva.us](http://Arlingtonva.us) and search "Fire Prevention Office" to learn more







# What is the purpose of the new regulation?

- To reduce the possibility of increased fire loading in residential apartments and condominiums.
- The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) has reported more than 214 such fires in 2022 up from 139 in 2021. These fires have led to 7 deaths and dozens of injuries.
- The Arlington County Fire Department has had 5 micro-mobility device fires in the past 12 months.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium ion batteries supply power to many different types of devices including laptops, scooters, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

### WHY THE CONCERN

- Lithium ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes these batteries are not used as they were intended which can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

**Stop using the battery if you notice these problems:**

- odor
- change in color
- too much heat
- change in shape
- leaking
- odd noises

If it's safe to do so, move it away from anything that can catch fire.  
Call 9-1-1

### SAFETY TIPS

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge your device under your pillow, on your bed, or on the couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or in a hot car.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

### BATTERY DISPOSAL

- Do not put Lithium ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.
- Call Arlington County Household Hazardous Waste - (703)228-5000 for additional guidance

**For more information:**  
Fire Prevention Office  
1020 N. Hudson St.,  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-228-4644  
<https://fire.arlingtonva.us>

**LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY**  
Follow us: @ArlingtonFire  
<https://fire.arlingtonva.us>



# Multi-Family Building Representatives



- What can you do?
  - Inform your Residents.
    - Residential space shall not be used for commercial micro-mobility device charging.
    - Residential space shall not be used for commercial micro-mobility device maintenance.
- Where and How?
  - Post ACFD-PSA materials
    - In lobby's, at mailing centers, on community announcement boards and pages, etc.
  - Provide the Arlington County Code 8.1 Fire Prevention Code, § 320 – Recharging and storage of personal electronic transportation devices.
    - In all sales/leasing documents and formal communications.
- When do you do it?
  - Such notification shall occur when
    - The tenant or occupant initially occupies.
    - The tenant or occupant renews a lease.
    - Periodically thereafter as may be necessary to ensure compliance.





Questions?