

## Guideline 17. E-Scooters and Personal Mobility Devices



### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** To establish safety guidelines for E-Scooters and personal mobility devices.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Personal Mobility Devices:** Bicycle – motorized/non-motorized and E-bicycle, Scooters – motorized/non-motorized and E-scooters, Skateboards – motorized/non-motorized and E-skateboards, Unicycle – motorized/non-motorized and E-unicycle, Hoverboards and any electronically powered recreational device.

**NOTE:** Self-propelled wheelchairs or an electric mobility device, specifically designed for and used by an individual with a mobility-related disability, are exempt.

### 3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1** All students, faculty, staff, postdocs, and visitors utilizing a personal mobility device on the University of Pennsylvania's campus.

### 4.0 PROCEDURES

#### 4.1 Prohibited Locations

**4.1.1** Personal mobility devices **shall not be permitted** in Academic, Administrative, Recreational, or Residential buildings on the University of Pennsylvania's campus. Personal mobility devices are a Life Safety hazard when exit paths are obstructed. Required exit accesses, exits and exit discharge shall be continually maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in case of fire or other emergency.

#### 4.2 Hazards

**4.2.1** Personal mobility devices and E-Scooters are powered by Lithium-ion batteries. Lithium batteries are generally safe and unlikely to fail, but only so long as there are no defects, and the batteries are not damaged. When lithium batteries fail to operate safely or are damaged, they may present a fire and/or explosion hazard, as captured below in these examples:

#### 4.3 University Policy

**4.3.1** Personal mobility devices must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Users of personal mobility devices, including bicyclists, are required to dismount and walk while traveling on Locust Walk, Hamilton Walk, Women's Walk, Smith Walk, Paley and Weave footbridges (**emergency and disabled personnel exempt**).

#### 4.4 Approved Locations to secure Device

- 4.4.1** Utilize bicycle racks to properly secure your devices with recommended U-Locks.  
**4.4.2** Do not lock your device onto trees or railings.

## 5.0 GENERAL REFERENCES

**5.1 2018 Philadelphia Fire Code:** Chapter 10, 1031.2 Reliability, 1031.3 Obstructions.

**5.2 NFPA Lithium Ion Battery Safety for Consumers:**

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/LithiumIonBatterySafety.ashx>

## 6.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

**6.1** For question regarding this guideline contact Fire and Emergency Services at  
(215) 573-7857 or [FES@publicsafety.upenn.edu](mailto:FES@publicsafety.upenn.edu)