

December 19, 2025

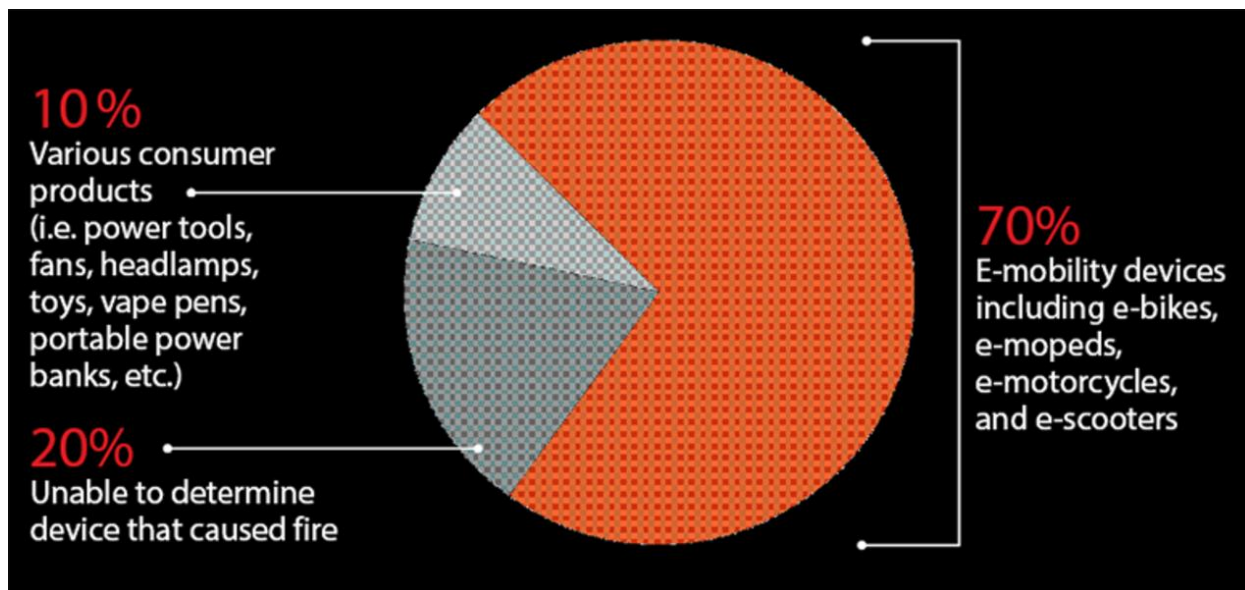
Dear University Community,

We write with an important notice that, to safeguard life and property, the University is banning electric mobility devices such as scooters and e-bikes from University buildings. This is due to the significant fire risk posed by their lithium-ion batteries. They should be charged and stored outdoors only.

As you plan your return for the Easter semester, we suggest you purchase a scooter lock for safekeeping and plan to store your scooter in the exterior bike storage. Under no circumstances should they be charged or stored in an enclosed space or in any structure attached to a university building. You may utilize exterior outlets and disconnect once charged.

The dangers of these devices

- **Most micromobility devices are powered by lithium-ion batteries.** These batteries are also in a variety of consumer electronics, including smartphones and laptops. On a larger scale, they are also found in plug-in electric vehicles such as those made by Tesla, as well as hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius.
- Micromobility devices cause a disproportionate number of lithium-ion battery fires. **Analysis by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Bureau of Fire Investigation** determined that micromobility devices were responsible for seven times more fires than all other lithium-ion battery-powered devices, despite the greater numerical prevalence of the latter.



SOURCE: FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigation

- When these e-mobility devices' batteries burn, because of their much greater stored energy, the fires are far more difficult to extinguish. In 2023, there were 268 such fires in the FDNY's jurisdiction, resulting in 150 injuries and 18 deaths. [You can read more about the FDNY's findings here.](#)

To reiterate: Because of the extreme risks to life and property, all scooters and e-bikes can only be charged and stored outdoors.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining our community's safety.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilson, Provost

Nicky Campbell, Vice-President for Student Life and Dean of Students

Terry Smith, Chief, Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department

Jim Turrell, Captain, Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department