California State Fire Marshal
Information Bulletin 15-006

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Hoverboard Fire Safety

This year, self-balancing scooters, more popularly known as hoverboards, are undoubtedly on many wish lists. Currently these popular devices do not have a safety listing that regulates their manufacturing for fire safety. With recent media coverage involving hoverboard injuries and fires, the Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to take this opportunity to provide important safety tips for their use, care, and maintenance.

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When shopping for a hoverboard:

- Take the time to research the product you buy.
- When buying online, verify that the hoverboard meets applicable standards.
- Devices that meet safety requirements will indicate their listing approvals on the packaging, on the hoverboard and/or its charging equipment.
- Buy a hoverboard with a warranty from a reputable source.
- Check with your retailer regarding the safety of the hoverboard you are purchasing.

When charging your hoverboard:

- An adult should be responsible for charging the hoverboard.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Do not overcharge the hoverboard; follow manufacturer's recommended charging times.
- After the hoverboard has been used, give it time to cool prior to re-charging.
- Do not leave the hoverboard unattended while charging.
- Never leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- Plug the charging device directly into an outlet. Keep to one plug per outlet. Only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard.

When operating your hoverboard:

- Operate the hoverboard in accordance with its intended use.
- If you notice the hoverboard is hot, stop using it and contact the manufacturer or retailer. This could suggest a faulty battery that needs replacing.
- Store the hoverboard at room temperature. Extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment; similar to when riding a bicycle.
- Do not text or operate a cell phone while using a hoverboard.

When traveling with your hoverboard:

- Many airlines have banned hoverboards. If you plan to fly with a hoverboard, be sure to check with your air carrier.
- When riding in a car, keep the hoverboard where you can see it in case it shows signs of a problem.

Signs of a Problem:

Some hoverboard fires have involved the Lithium-Ion battery and/or the charger. The following are signs of a malfunction:

- Leaking fluids
- Excessive heat
- Odor
- Sparking
- Smoke

If you notice any of these signs, stop using the hoverboard right away. Call 9-1-1. If safe to do so, move the hoverboard to the outside and away from anything that can burn.