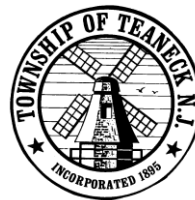




Teaneck Fire Department

Township of Teaneck
1231 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666
(201)-837-2085



Joseph Berchtold
Fire Chief

To: Township of Teaneck

Date: March 1, 2023

Subject: Press Release electric vehicles and charging stations

Teaneck fire department recommends charging stations should not be installed under or in any type of building or structure.

Teaneck fire department recommends that charging stations if installed on properties are located outside and away from the structure if possible.

Fires in Electrical / battery powered vehicles can be dangerous.

Lithium ion batteries are unable to be extinguished by fire department operations. Currently, there is no method to extinguish these types of fires quickly. The fire must burn itself out, or the fire department has to spend several hours cooling them with copious amount of water. This goes for any type of lithium ion battery from a cordless drill to an E bike.

More concerning is the electric/battery powered vehicles, can burn for several hours.

Charging stations when installed inside a structure should not be placed by any means of egress.

Example: E bikes and E scooters that are left in an entrance way to an apartment because of ease of charging.

If a fire starts, it prevents the occupants from escaping out the door. It also prevents fire fighters from making their way into the apartment.

Depending on the size of the battery pack, it can take several hours to extinguish the fire.

Teaneck Fire department is monitoring this problem. Members are currently attending training classes to insure how best we can protect the residents of Teaneck. We are hopeful that in the future new products will become available to assist us.