SAFETY ALERT

"They all look the same on the outside but it's what's on the inside that's what's most important, this customer bought a board online, plugged it in, and said it smelled like it was burning."

-Anonymous Hoverboard retailer

HOVERBOARDS, SMART BOARDS, BALANCE BOARDS

THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC) HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT CONCERNING HOVERBOARDS, SMART BOARDS, AND BALANCE BOARDS, NOTING THE NEED FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND TO INFORM RIDERS AS TO THE ROOT CAUSE OF ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH OWNERSHIP AND USE OF THESE DEVICES. CURRENTLY, THE CPSC INVESTIGATION IS FOCUSED ON TWO AREAS:

FIRE - THE CONFIGURATION OF BATTERY PACKS AND COMPATIBILITY WITH ACCOMPANYING CHARGERS, WHICH CAN IGNITE WHETHER (OR NOT) CONNECTED TO POWER;

FALLS - NOT ONLY ARE THERE RISKS OF FIRE, THERE ARE ALSO RISKS OF FALLS FROM USE OF THESE POPULAR BOARDS. SOME INJURIES HAVE BEEN SERIOUS. ACCORDING TO CPSC REPORTS, THESE RISKS INCLUDE CONCUSSIONS, FRACTURES, CONTUSIONS/ABRASIONS, AND INTERNAL ORGAN INJURIES.

CPSC Advice:
1. Avoid websites and shopping kiosks that don’t provide manufacturer and seller contact information.
2. No overnight or unattended charging.
3. Cool the board after use and before charging.
4. Don’t charge brand new boards from the box—allow for exhaustion of the board’s partial charge.
5. Look for actual Underwriter Laboratories (UL) or other certified national testing lab markings on the board.
6. Do not ride in or near vehicular traffic.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE ADVISORY INFORMATION, THE PENDING DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO THE SAFE USE AND SALE OF HOVERBOARDS, AND FINALLY THE GROWING STANCE OF MANY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BOTH NATIONALLY AND WITHIN THE STATE OF OHIO EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE HOVERBOARDS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR ANY REASON IN ANY OHIO UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. ANY HOVERBOARD FOUND IN ANY OHIO UNIVERSITY BUILDING WILL BE REMOVED. FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.SaferProducts.gov; https://www.ohio.edu/riskandsafety/

Risk Management & Safety
Striving to protect the Ohio University community from unnecessary harm and unwanted risk.