# London faces record surge in e-bike and e-scooter fires, prompting regulatory crackdown



Fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters in London are on course to reach an unprecedented high this year, underscoring an escalating public safety concern linked to these increasingly popular electric vehicles. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has recorded 165 incidents involving e-bikes and e-scooters up to September 28, 2025, which averages approximately 18 fires per month. Should this trend persist, the capital is expected to surpass 200 such incidents annually for the first time on record.

This surge in fires has had tragic consequences, including the death of Eden Abera Siem, 30, who succumbed to injuries after firefighters rescued her from a blaze believed to have been caused by a battery failure during an e-bike charging event at her home in Wood Green. This incident marked the fourth fatal e-bike fire in London, with a notable pattern that none of the victims owned or used the e-bikes involved, highlighting the indiscriminate dangers posed by these fires.

The London Fire Brigade has emphasised the severe risks posed by fires linked to lithium-ion batteries, which power most e-bikes and e-scooters. Such batteries can ignite rapidly, spreading fire and releasing toxic vapours. Products bought from online marketplaces—including batteries, chargers, and e-bike conversion kits—are often more prone to malfunction due to lax regulation compared to items purchased from traditional retailers. The LFB has called on gig economy delivery companies such as Uber Eats, Just Eat, and Deliveroo to raise awareness among their riders about these fire hazards, and plans to formally request they disseminate safety advice promptly.

In response to the increasing number of incidents, Transport for London (TfL) announced a ban, effective from March 31, 2025, on non-folded e-bikes across most of its transport network. This ban includes conventional e-bikes and those converted from standard bicycles using electronic kits, which TfL’s safety review found carry a higher fire risk than purpose-built e-bikes. Foldable e-bikes, due to their specific design and lower modification risk, are exempt from the ban. This measure aims to safeguard passengers and transport staff from the dangers posed by e-bike battery fires, which have on occasion occurred onboard or at transport facilities.

The LFB’s warnings are underscored by recent tragic events where homes were severely damaged and pets lost due to fires initiated by faulty e-bike and e-scooter batteries. For instance, in early February 2025, one house in West Hampstead was gutted by fire sparked by a charging e-scooter battery, resulting in the death of a dog inside the property. The following day, another fire caused by a battery pack on a converted e-bike devastated a home in Feltham. These incidents highlight the extensive damage such fires can inflict on property and lives.

Safety experts have voiced calls for robust regulatory actions. Lesley Rudd, chief executive of the charity Electrical Safety First, urged the government to take bold steps to introduce third-party certification for e-bike batteries to ensure their safety prior to market sale. She also advocated for stringent new standards for conversion kits and tougher regulations targeting online platforms that facilitate the sale of substandard electrical goods. These interventions are deemed crucial to curb the rising incidence of fires and protect consumers.

The Department for Business and Trade has already launched a public safety campaign encouraging consumers to purchase electrical products from reputable sources. Meanwhile, the London Fire Brigade has been actively working with product safety experts to disseminate #ChargeSafe advice focusing on safe charging and storage practices, particularly in areas with higher occurrences of e-bike fires. This ongoing public education effort seeks to reduce the risk of these fires and protect communities from their devastating consequences.

Together, these developing responses reflect an urgent recognition of the dangers associated with e-bikes and e-scooters, particularly those involving poorly regulated or modified components. With their growing popularity, balanced regulation, public awareness, and industry responsibility will be essential to preventing further harm.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/february/urgent-warning-after-london-homes-gutted-and-two-dogs-killed-less-than-24-hours-apart-in-e-bike-and-e-scooter-fires/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[3]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2025/march/tfl-announces-safety-ban-of-non-folded-e-bikes-on-its-transport-network), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/26/tfl-to-issue-ban-on-e-bikes-after-concerns-over-igniting-batteries)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/february/urgent-warning-after-london-homes-gutted-and-two-dogs-killed-less-than-24-hours-apart-in-e-bike-and-e-scooter-fires/), [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/february/urgent-warning-after-london-homes-gutted-and-two-dogs-killed-less-than-24-hours-apart-in-e-bike-and-e-scooter-fires/), [[5]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2024/february/e-bike-fire-shepherds-bush/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[7]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/product-safety-experts-join-brigade-to-deliver-chargesafe-advice-as-e-bike-fires-show-no-sign-of-letting-up/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/), [[7]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/product-safety-experts-join-brigade-to-deliver-chargesafe-advice-as-e-bike-fires-show-no-sign-of-letting-up/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/e-bike-fires-on-track-to-hit-record-high-this-year-ZRQVL6GFOZLIXEB3UIWIP5EM5U/> - An article from The Irish News reports that e-bike and e-scooter fires in London are on track to reach a record high in 2025. The London Fire Brigade recorded 165 such incidents up to September 28, averaging about 18 per month. If this trend continues, London will surpass 200 incidents in a single year for the first time. The article also highlights the death of Eden Abera Siem, 30, who died after a blaze, likely caused by a charging e-bike battery, broke out at her home on June 21. This was the fourth fatal e-bike fire in the capital, with all victims not owning or using the e-bike involved. The London Fire Brigade urges gig economy companies to raise awareness about fire risks from e-bikes and plans to write to delivery companies like Uber Eats, Just Eat, and Deliveroo to share safety advice with their riders. The article also mentions a campaign by the Department for Business and Trade, launched in October last year, calling on people to buy only safe electrical products from reputable sellers.
3. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2025/march/tfl-announces-safety-ban-of-non-folded-e-bikes-on-its-transport-network> - Transport for London (TfL) announced a ban on non-folded e-bikes on most of its services, effective from March 31, 2025. This decision follows a comprehensive safety review in collaboration with the London Fire Brigade, prompted by incidents where non-foldable e-bikes caught fire on the transport system. The ban includes all non-folding e-bikes, including standard cycles converted to e-bikes using conversion kits. TfL's analysis suggests that cycles adapted with electronic conversion kits pose a greater fire risk than purpose-built e-bikes. The ban aims to ensure the safety of customers and staff, with foldable e-bikes being exempt due to their specific design and lower risk of modification.
4. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/february/urgent-warning-after-london-homes-gutted-and-two-dogs-killed-less-than-24-hours-apart-in-e-bike-and-e-scooter-fires/> - The London Fire Brigade issued an urgent warning after two homes were destroyed in separate fires involving an e-bike and an e-scooter less than 24 hours apart. The first incident occurred on February 3, 2025, when a charging e-scooter's battery ignited at a house on Barlow Road in West Hampstead, leading to a significant fire. The second incident took place on February 4, 2025, when the battery pack of a converted e-bike caught fire at a house on Bridlepath Way in Feltham. In both cases, the fires resulted in extensive damage, and tragically, a dog was found dead inside the property in the West Hampstead incident. The London Fire Brigade emphasized the dangers associated with e-bike and e-scooter fires and urged the public to exercise caution.
5. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2024/february/e-bike-fire-shepherds-bush/> - On February 28, 2024, the London Fire Brigade responded to a fire involving an e-bike on Uxbridge Road in Shepherd's Bush. The incident resulted in the destruction of an electric bike, though no injuries were reported. A spokesperson from the London Fire Brigade highlighted the dangers of lithium battery fires, noting that such incidents can produce extremely toxic vapour clouds and intense flames capable of melting metal. The spokesperson urged the public to stay well away from such fires and emphasized the importance of safe storage and charging practices for e-bikes and e-scooters.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/26/tfl-to-issue-ban-on-e-bikes-after-concerns-over-igniting-batteries> - An article from The Guardian reports that Transport for London (TfL) is set to ban most e-bikes on trains due to concerns over igniting batteries. The ban, effective from March 31, 2025, will permit only folding e-bikes on the London Underground, Overground, Elizabeth Line, and DLR trains. This decision follows a series of incidents where non-foldable e-bikes caught fire on the transport system, raising safety concerns for passengers and staff. TfL's analysis indicates that cycles adapted with electronic conversion kits pose a greater fire risk than purpose-built e-bikes, leading to the comprehensive ban on non-folding e-bikes.
7. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/product-safety-experts-join-brigade-to-deliver-chargesafe-advice-as-e-bike-fires-show-no-sign-of-letting-up/> - In June 2025, the London Fire Brigade collaborated with product safety experts to deliver #ChargeSafe advice amid a surge in e-bike and e-scooter fires in London. The initiative aimed to provide life-saving safety advice to users of these vehicles, especially in areas with a higher concentration of such incidents. The campaign focused on educating riders about the risks associated with modified e-bikes and e-scooters, which are one of London's fastest-growing fire risks. The London Fire Brigade emphasized the importance of safe storage and charging practices to prevent fires and protect the community.