



## SARGENT LAW FIRM INSIDER NEWS



*Everything you need to know about our firm, the SLF team, and making our community a safer place to live and work.*

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## DRIVING ON THE **4th** OF **JULY**

July Fourth is historically the most hazardous day of the year to be on the

road! This 4th of July is estimated to be the busiest travel day EVER, with well over 50 million Americans traveling away from home, and an estimated 43.2 million traveling by car. NHTSA reports that there were 1,460 drivers killed on US roads on July 4th from 2017 to 2021. More people die in drunk driving crashes in July than any other month. **Please drive responsibly, and be extra careful on the roads this July!**

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## POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF E-BIKE BATTERIES

**Lithium-ion batteries have revolutionized the world of portable power due to their high energy density and rechargeable nature. However, when not handled properly or if defects exist, these batteries can pose serious safety concerns.**

In New York City alone there were 220 lithium-ion battery fires related to E-Bikes in 2022, of those fires last year, six resulted in deaths. And already this year an e-bike exploded in a Huntington Beach apartment displacing a family of three, and another caused a fire in a home in Virginia, killing one man.

Let's talk about the potential hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes. As electric bicycles continue to gain popularity, it is crucial to be aware of the risks involved and take necessary precautions.

Here's what you need to know:

1. **Thermal Runaway:** Lithium-ion batteries are prone to a phenomenon called thermal runaway. This occurs when the battery overheats, leading to an uncontrollable increase in temperature and pressure within the battery. In extreme cases, this can result in fire or explosion. It is important to use quality batteries and chargers that meet safety standards to minimize the risk.
2. **Overcharging and Overdischarging:** Charging e-bike batteries beyond their recommended capacity or completely depleting them can lead to internal damage, reduced performance, and increased risk of accidents. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and discharging to maintain the battery's health and prevent hazardous

situations.

3. **Physical Damage:** Impact or puncture to the battery pack can compromise its integrity, potentially causing a short circuit and leading to thermal runaway. Handle e-bike batteries with care, avoid dropping them, and inspect them regularly for any signs of physical damage.
4. **Storage and Transportation:** When storing or transporting e-bike batteries, ensure they are kept in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Avoid leaving them in hot vehicles, as heat can accelerate battery deterioration and increase the risk of malfunction. When possible, do not store or charge e-bike batteries in your house.
5. **Maintenance and Quality Assurance:** Regularly inspect your e-bike's battery and charger for any signs of wear or defects. If you notice any abnormalities, such as swelling, unusual heat, or a change in performance, stop using the battery immediately and seek professional assistance. Investing in high-quality batteries from reputable manufacturers can significantly reduce the chances of encountering safety issues.

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## FROM OUR CEO



The month of June flew by, and we are officially in summer! I am excited to celebrate 4th of July with family, good food, and fireworks. I am grateful for the brave men and women that have fought, and continue to fight, for our freedom and the freedom of others. We know that freedom does not come free, and we humbly thank our current and past military service members and their families.

We are halfway through the year, and SLF has already helped hundreds of our clients resolve their injury cases. Our SLF Team remains dedicated to providing the highest level of legal representation, and customer service, for our clients. We hope that you have a fun, and safe, 4th of July weekend!

Kind regards,  
Ryan Sargent

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