



Millersville University

# Electric Mobility Device Guidelines

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

EHS Standard Operating Procedure- 1.3

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Scooters, hoverboards and other battery-powered devices have become popular modes of transportation for getting students quickly across campus, but the electric mobility devices pose a safety hazard to pedestrians, building occupants, and users.

Furthermore, countless fire incidents nationwide have been attributed to these devices and the lithium-ion batteries that they contain. The storage and charging of lithium-ion batteries in residence halls and other University buildings represent a serious hazard, as they may explode, causing injuries and starting fires. Lithium-ion battery fires are chemical reactions that, once underway, cannot be extinguished like traditional fires and create toxic gases that can be deadly in enclosed spaces.

## 2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the process for preventing potential injury or other hazards from the use of electric micromobility devices on campus.

## 3.0 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all Millersville University students, faculty, staff, and visitors utilizing a micromobility device on the University campus.

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

***Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)***- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability just as other civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs.

***Covered Entity***- employers that have 15 or more employees, including state/local governments, employment agencies, and labor unions.

***Electric Microobility Device***- a class of compact motorized micromobility vehicles for transporting an individual. Electric [micromobility](#) devices include any small, low-speed, electric-powered transportation device, including electric-assist bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), segways, onewheels, skateboards, and other small, lightweight, wheeled electric-powered conveyances.

***Power-Driven Device***- a mobility device that is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States. These electric mobility products are aimed at seniors/elderly or disabled users and provide freedom by extending travel range. The ADA states that people with disabilities can use whatever device they need to for transport.

***Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD)***- any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engine that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of

locomotion, including golf cars, electronic personal assistance mobility devices, such as the Segway® PT, or any mobility device designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes, but that is not a wheelchair

## **5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is responsible for creating, implementing, and managing safety programs and initiatives. This includes reviewing hazards associated with machinery, transportation, injury prevention and investigation, and fire prevention, among others.

The Department of University Housing & Conference Services is responsible for creating a safe and engaging living-learning community in the residence halls and shall monitor for the improper use and storage of these devices in campus residential facilities.

Employees, faculty, students, and staff using equipment covered by these guidelines should follow instructions regarding prohibited uses, charging, storage, and safe operation.

Campus police strives to create a productive and safe environment for everyone to learn and grow. The police will enforce applicable local, state, and federal laws and assist in the enforcement of campus policies and procedures.

The Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards will assist in administration of these standards in accordance with the Student Conduct & Community Standards Handbook and the student Code of Conduct.

## **6.0 GENERAL**

### **6.1. SAFETY**

Users must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

Users must obey all traffic signs and signals.

Users must dismount and walk in heavily congested pedestrian areas.

Users may only operate on paved surfaces.

The use of headphones, earbuds, or other electronic devices while the device is in operation is not recommended.

The use of a helmet while operating a device is strongly encouraged.

### **6.2. PROHIBITED USES**

Micromobility devices shall not be permitted in Academic, Administrative, or Recreational buildings on the Millersville University campus. Micromobility devices are a Life Safety hazard when exit paths are obstructed. Required exit accesses, exits and exit discharge shall be continually maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in case of fire or other emergency.

Devices must be used in a manner that is safe and does not present the risk of undue harm to the user or other staff, students, faculty, and visitors. Racing, stunts, and trick-riding is prohibited.

Micromobility devices are prohibited from being connected to any electric outlet within Millersville University buildings for the purpose of charging.

### **6.3. STORAGE AND CHARGING**

Micromobility devices are not permitted to be stored or charged inside university buildings. The monitoring of storage in residential housing will be completed on a continuous basis by Housing & Conference Services staff and will be included as part of the routine room safety inspection process.

Micromobility devices must be stored outdoors in areas that do not impede foot or vehicular traffic.

### **6.4. EXCEPTIONS**

Covered entities must allow people with disabilities who use manual or power wheelchairs or scooters, and manually powered mobility aids such as walkers, crutches, and canes, into all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.

Covered entities must also allow people with disabilities who use other types of power-driven mobility devices into their facilities unless a particular type of device cannot be accommodated because of legitimate safety requirements. Where legitimate safety requirements bar accommodation for a particular type of device, the covered entity must provide the service it offers in alternate ways if possible.

## **7.0 REFERENCES**

Drexel University E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety

Inside Higher Ed- E-Scooters Spark New Safety Concerns Across Campuses

University of Kentucky Transportation Services- Motorized Personal Mobility Vehicle Use Policy

University of Pennsylvania- Guideline 21- Use of E-Scooters and Personal Transport Devices

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission- Fact Sheet: Disability Discrimination

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division- ADA Requirements: Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division- Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act

U.S. Department of Transportation- Electric Micromobility Basics