

MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



Douglas D. Topolski
Chief of Police

Margaret M. Doud
Mayor

August 1, 2022

In light of a recent residential structure fire caused by an exploding ebike battery which also caused injuries to fire fighters which required hospitalization, the Mackinac Island Fire and Police Departments are urging residents, visitors and employers to take whatever action necessary to ensure that ebikes and ebike batteries are not stored indoors under any circumstances.

The recent fire had the very real potential to be catastrophic to the residential area occupied by full-time island residents and seasonal employees. It is not an exaggeration to suggest that a fire of this nature could pose an existential threat to many island businesses and historic buildings had it occurred un-noticed in the downtown area. According to Fire Chief St. Onge, although data is still being collected on the threat posed by ebike batteries, there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that malfunctioning batteries present an omnipresent danger.

As a result of the fire, Fire Chief St. Onge and Chief of Police Topolski have banned ebikes from fire and police department buildings with other municipal departments expected to follow suit. Management of Grand Hotel has banned ebikes from hotel buildings and employee housing and they have also been barred from school buildings by the school board.

It is hoped that by taking proactive measures with regard to fire hazards, especially those currently posed by ebike batteries, we can avoid a catastrophic fire for as long as possible on Mackinac Island.