



# Hoverboard Policy

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Risk Officer
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	RK - Risk / EH&S
<b>Issuance Date:</b>	5/13/2016
<b>Effective Date:</b>	3/21/2016
<b>Scope:</b>	All University Locations including Medical Centers

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## I. POLICY SUMMARY

This Policy bans the use, possession, charging, or storage of self-balancing, battery-powered boards known as hoverboards, sometimes referred to as electronic skateboards or scooters, and other similar equipment at buildings and housing units at all University Locations including medical centers.

This ban is only applicable to those devices that meet the definition of a hoverboard

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(below). It does NOT include non self-balancing electric skateboards, eBikes, or electronic mobility devices for people with disabilities. These devices use different types of batteries that are not known to pose a risk of catching fire while charging or in use.

Hoverboard models that are tested and certified by an accredited third party testing laboratory (such as the Underwriters Laboratory) are excluded from this ban. The testing and certification must be performed against a recognized performance standard that has specifically evaluated the fire safety of the device.

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## II. DEFINITIONS

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**Hoverboard:** A battery operated, self-balancing device used for personal transportation. It is also referred to as a self-balancing electric scooter, electric skateboard, or hands-free Segway (traditional Segways with handles are not included in this definition). The rider or operator stands on a platform with both feet and uses their body weight to control the movement of the device.

**University Location:** Any property or building that is owned or leased by the University where University business or activities take place including medical centers, with the exception of private campus housing units co-owned by faculty or staff.

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## III. POLICY TEXT

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The Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Elliot F. Kaye, issued a statement on December 16, 2015 indicating that some hoverboards caught fire while charging, while others caught fire while in use.

In light of numerous reports of unexpected and spontaneous fires caused by hoverboard batteries, the University of California prohibits the use, possession, charging, or storage of non-certified hoverboards in buildings and housing units at all University Locations.

This includes residence halls, buildings, hospitals and any property or building owned or operated by the University of California where University business or activities take place. Private campus housing units owned in part by faculty or staff are excluded from this Policy.

Effective immediately, use and charging of non-certified hoverboards in buildings or housing units at all University Locations is prohibited. All non-certified hoverboard devices must be physically removed from all buildings or housing units at all University Locations no later than June 30, 2016. Some exemptions from this ban may be allowed on a case-by-case basis to facilitate research involving hoverboards, but only after

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review and approval by the appropriate research oversight committee at the University Location.

The University of California will continue to monitor the ongoing federal investigation regarding hoverboard safety. The ban will be periodically reevaluated based on; the outcome and recommendations of national consumer safety investigations; the development and implementation of Underwriters Laboratory (UL) standards for batteries used in hoverboards; or when other safety standards for hoverboards have been adequately developed and implemented across all models.

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### IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES

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Campus Chancellors and medical center executive leadership should adopt procedures to ensure implementation and enforcement of the hoverboard ban outlined in this Policy.

Campus housing administrators should reference this hoverboard restriction in housing policies and agreements.

Although campus Fire Marshals are delegated authority from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to enforce this safety precaution, specific procedures for enforcement of this policy shall be addressed locally at the University Location. Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the appropriate Campus Fire Marshal.

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### V. PROCEDURES

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Not applicable.

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### VI. RELATED INFORMATION

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[National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) Hoverboard Safety](#)

[Warning Statement from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman Elliot F. Kaye on the Safety of Hoverboards](#)

[CPSC Investigation Status on January 20, 2016](#)

[California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 15-006 issued December 2015](#)

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### VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Not applicable.

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### VIII. REVISION HISTORY

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**June 1, 2017:** This Policy was remediated in accordance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

**May 13, 2016:** Initial issuance date