

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S DECISION TO BAN HOVERBOARDS

Safety is the responsibility of our entire campus community, and we should all work together to create a safe environment at all times. Therefore, effective January 11, 2016 Columbia University after careful consideration, will issue a ban on hoverboards (a/k/a self-balancing scooters or smart boards on campus), and prohibit the use of these devices on Campus grounds. This ban extends to any and all property owned, rented, leased, and controlled by The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York.

This decision is in response to recent reports from the Consumer Product Safety Commission with regard to potential fire hazards resulting from the lithium-ion batteries that power the device, and that there are no safety standards in place for these devices.

While concerns over fire hazards have generated significant attention, we cannot ignore the potential for injuries including concussions, fractures, contusions, and internal organ injuries resulting from falls while operating a hoverboard.



As part of our efforts to maintain a safe environment for our students, faculty, and employees the University has added hoverboards to the prohibited items list that can be found on our website at <http://housing.columbia.edu/policies>.

Any hoverboards presently on Columbia University property should be removed immediately.

**Thank you for your cooperation,
Steve Lawrence – Risk Management
Ed Keszowski - Risk Management
Jim McShane - Public Safety**