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Map: Hoverboard fire reports around the US

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF MARCH 07, 2016

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission says it is investigating 57 reports of fires linked to self-balancing scooters, which are known commonly as hoverboards.

The data shows the agency is investigating two cases in New England — one in Massachusetts and the other in Connecticut. The agency did not provide more details about the cases.

Local officials in Massachusetts have previously reported two fires were linked to hoverboards — one in Somerville in November and another in Chelmsford in February. In Hopkinton in February, firefighters also raced to a home where residents said they had safely thrown a sparking hoverboard out into the snow.

The devices were a popular holiday gift, but local and federal officials have grown concerned over a number of cases in which the hoverboards reportedly caught fire or even exploded.

The federal safety agency last month declared that the devices “pose an unreasonable risk of fire to consumers,” and urged companies that make and sell hoverboards to comply with safety standards.

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The agency has also voiced concerns over users of the devices falling off of them and hurting themselves.

Some retailers have stopped selling the devices, and a growing list of college campuses and public transit systems around the country have banned the use of hoverboards on their property.

Locally, the list of banned places includes: the MBTA system, and the campuses of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Boston College, Suffolk University, Brandeis University, and Emerson College.



Hoverboard fires around the US

This map shows the location of each of the 57 reported self-balancing scooter, or "hoverboard" fires under investigation by US Consumer Product Safety Commission. The reports date back to Dec. 1, 2015, and have caused more than \$2 million worth of property damage, including the destruction of two homes and a car.

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SOURCE: US Consumer Product Safety Commission
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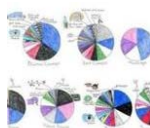
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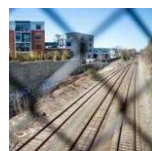
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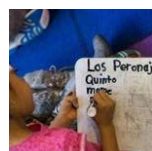
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