

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Creating the Safest Community



Lithium Battery Fires (01/01/2019 - 23/02/2024)

Data, Intelligence and Safety

Date: February 2024

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Contents

1 Request 3

2 Reply 3

3 Results 4

1 Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue. Please may you provide me with the following data for the last 5 years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 so far) regarding:

- Number of lithium battery fires attended over the last 5 years
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter?
- Number of people who have died in a fire involving a lithium battery over the last 5 years
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter
- Number of people seriously injured in a fire involving a lithium battery over the last 5 years?
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter?

2 Reply

The following information is taken from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) Incident Recording System (IRS). An IRS incident record is completed by the Officer in Charge for every incident attended.

This was a search of the text in the comments section of the IRS reports for mention of lithium batteries, electric scooters and electric bikes.

3 Results

Between 1st January 2019 and 23rd February 2024, the IRS recorded a total of 28 incidents involving lithium batteries. The number of incidents recorded over this time period, split down by incident type and the calendar year the incident took place is displayed in the table below.

Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Lithium Battery - Other	3	3	3	2	2	1	14
Lithium Battery - Electric Bike	1	2	0	2	3	0	8
Lithium Battery - Electric Scooter	1	0	1	3	1	0	6
Total	5	5	4	7	6	1	28

In the last five years, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service has documented zero incidents where a lithium battery fire resulted in a fatality.

However, there was just one instance of a lithium battery fire that resulted in serious injuries in 2020, and it did not involve an electric bike or scooter.