

Borough of Matawan
201 Broad Street
Matawan New Jersey 07747
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www.matawanborough.com



Public Notice of Pending Ordinance 25-13

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Matawan, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, on June 17, 2025. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the Governing Body to be held at the Borough of Matawan, Matawan Municipal Community Center, 201 Broad Street, Matawan, New Jersey 07747 on July 15, 2025 at 7:00 o'clock PM. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours at the Clerk's Office for the members of the general public who shall request the same or on the Borough of Matawan website at www.matawanborough.com.

Karen Wynne, RMC
Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE 25-13

AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF MATAWAN CHAPTER 17 –FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SECTION 17-19 –BATTERY-POWERED DEVICE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION PLACARDS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Matawan recognize the increasing use of battery-powered devices, including electric vehicles, battery-powered generators, and energy storage systems within residential and commercial premises; and

WHEREAS, such devices pose significant and unique hazards to emergency responders due to the risks of thermal runaway, toxic fumes, and re-ignition in the event of fire; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of emergency personnel and the public requires adequate identification of premises containing such devices to allow for appropriate fire suppression tactics and hazard mitigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Matawan, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 17, entitled "Fire Prevention and Protection," of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Matawan is hereby amended to add a new Section 17-19 as follows:

SECTION 17-19 BATTERY-POWERED DEVICE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION PLACARDS

§ 17-19.1 Purpose.

To protect the safety of residents, emergency responders, and the public by requiring hazard identification placards and registration for premises that store or utilize electric vehicles (EVs), battery-powered generators, energy storage systems, or other similar lithium-ion battery-based devices.

§ 17-19.2 Definitions.

- a. **Battery-Powered Device** shall mean any electric vehicle, battery-powered generator, or stationary energy storage system utilizing lithium-ion or other rechargeable batteries with a storage capacity of at least 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh).
- b. **Placard** shall mean a visible, weatherproof sign, approved by the Fire Official, affixed to the exterior of a building or structure to notify emergency responders of the presence of battery-powered devices.
- c. **Owner or Responsible Party** shall mean the individual, entity, or occupant in control of the premises where such devices are stored or maintained.

§ 17-19.3 Applicability.

This section applies to all premises within the Borough of Matawan that store or utilize one or more Battery-Powered Devices as defined herein.

§ 17-19.4 Registration Requirement.

All Battery-Powered Devices covered under this section must be registered with the **Borough of Matawan Fire Prevention Office**. Property owners or responsible parties shall complete and submit the registration form provided by the Fire Prevention Office.

Registration must be completed within thirty (30) days of installation or acquisition of the device(s) or upon any significant change in equipment.

§ 17-19.5 Placard Requirement.

- a. Every premises subject to this section shall display a placard at or near the main entrance or a location visible to emergency responders.
- b. The placard shall:
 - 1. Be a minimum of 6 inches by 6 inches;
 - 2. Indicate the presence of battery-powered devices;
 - 3. Comply with the design provided by the Fire Prevention Bureau; and
 - 4. Be installed within 30 days of the device being placed on the property.

§ 17-19.6 Design and Issuance.

The Fire Official shall provide or approve the design specifications for the placard. Placards may be issued by the Fire Prevention Office or made available digitally for printing and installation with verification.

§ 17-19.7 Maintenance and Removal.

- a. Placards must remain intact and visible at all times while battery-powered devices are present.
- b. When all such devices are permanently removed, the placard may be taken down, and the Fire Prevention Office must be notified.

§ 17-19.8 Enforcement and Penalties.

- a. Enforcement shall be carried out by the Fire Official or designee.
- b. Penalties for noncompliance:
 - 1. First Offense: Written warning and 10 days to comply;
 - 2. Second Offense: Fine up to \$250;
 - 3. Subsequent Offenses: Fine up to \$500 and/or enforcement action under the NJ Uniform Fire Code.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, any Ordinances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies only.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, if any provisions of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance, which can be given effect, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.