

## City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department

Community, Honor, Tradition

## **SAFETY BULLETIN**

Re: Electric Vehicle Safety/ Submerged Vehicle Safety

Due to the effects of Hurricane Ian, many residents of Marco Island experienced water intrusion in and around the home. While most vehicle batteries feature waterproofing safety components, submersion in salt water is particularly dangerous and may not allow for protection from fire.

If your vehicle has been submerged in water, DO NOT attempt to turn on or drive your vehicle. If you have an electric vehicle (golf cart, electric vehicle, lawnmower, ATV, etc.) do not attempt to turn on or connect the vehicle to a charger.

- Vehicles exposed to salt water are at a great risk for short circuit which may result in a fire. Additionally, some batteries will give off harmful gases. For this reason, all vehicles should be moved to a well-ventilated area at least 30 feet away from any structure, if possible. Do not leave these vehicles in garages or near your homes.
- Do not attempt to disconnect battery cables, especially orange cables which indicate high voltage.
- If you have experienced flooding in and around any electrical components, please have your home evaluated by a licensed electrician.
  - If you must have your vehicle towed, please check the manufacturer's guidelines for the safe handling of your vehicle.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Fire Marshal Jeni Pierce at (239) 380-2842.