

Distribution: All DOC Employees (Except USPTO)
When: December 15, 2016
Subject: Fake iPhone Chargers Are Dangerous!
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This is a Department of Commerce Consumer Product Safety Message (2016 – 001).

On December 27, 2015, in a Federal office building in the District of Columbia, an unattended fake iPhone charger plugged into a power strip overheated and burst into flames. The resulting fire and water damage exceeded \$300,000. The fire and water destroyed five cubicle offices and displaced workers for several weeks.

There's a 99 percent chance your fake Apple charger isn't safe. (Collins, 2016)
[Read the full Article.](#)

A study published by UK business watchdog Trading Standards has claimed that 99 percent of counterfeit Apple chargers bought online fail a basic safety test. Investigators purchased 400 Apple chargers from different retailers around the world over the internet and put them through the tests they would need to pass in order to be sold in shops in the UK. In all, 397 chargers failed. "Criminals across the globe are using online platforms to lure you in with cheap deals for fake items, many of which are dangerous and have been known to overheat and cause house fires," said Lord Toby Harris, chairman of Trading Standards. Even seemingly reputable retailers might not always be safe. In October, [Apple filed a lawsuit against online sellers](#), after it was revealed 90 percent of iPhone chargers sold on Amazon were fake.

- iPhones captured 44.2 percent market share among U.S. smartphone subscribers aged 13 and older based on a 3-month average, which ended in July 2015. As a result, the market for cheap knockoffs is lucrative.
- If you have an iPhone charging cable you bought online, you can use [CNET's handy guide](#) to figure out whether or not it is safe.
- Apple [also provides its own guide](#) to help you spot bogus Lightning connectors. To be sure you're buying a bona fide Apple charger, it is best to buy directly from the company or another reliable retailer.



This iPhone Lightning Cable (legitimacy unknown) was found during the recent APC power strip survey at HBHC. In light of the above article we could all be more vigilant regarding discount purchases and the potential hazards that fake products can represent.

For more information about this and more consumer product safety issues check out the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>

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