



## City of Paso Robles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City of Paso Robles  
Police Department  
900 Park Street  
(805) 237-6464**

### **Paso Robles Police Department Reminds Community of E-Bike and E-Motorcycle Safety Laws**

PASO ROBLES, CA – As electric bicycles and electric motorcycles continue to grow in popularity, the Paso Robles Police Department is reminding residents to understand the differences between these vehicles and the laws governing their operation.

California law recognizes three classes of electric bicycles, each with specific operating requirements. Understanding these distinctions is important for riders and parents when purchasing and operating electric-powered two-wheeled vehicles.

- **Class 1:** Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph
- **Class 2:** Operates via pedal-assist or throttle and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph
- **Class 3:** Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 mph

The Department has also observed an increase in the use of electric motorcycles designed for off-road use. Unlike e-bikes, these vehicles do not have operable pedals and are not classified as bicycles under California law. Electric motorcycles configured for off-road use are generally prohibited from operating on public streets, sidewalks, bicycle paths, and trails. Violations may result in enforcement action, including vehicle impoundment pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 22651.08.

The Paso Robles Police Department will continue to educate riders and enforce applicable state and local laws to promote the safety of all roadways, sidewalks, and trails. Parents and guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the laws and discuss safe and lawful operation with their children, as many violations involve juveniles and young adults.

# E-BIKE *VS* E-MOTORCYCLE

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



### ELECTRIC BICYCLES



#### DIFFERENCES:

- BIKE PEDALS
- MAX SPEED: UNDER 28 MPH



#### WHERE YOU CAN RIDE:

- CLASS 1 & 2: ANYWHERE A BICYCLE CAN RIDE
- CLASS 3: NO PATHS OR TRAILS



#### REQUIREMENTS:

- CLASS 1 & 2: SAME AS BICYCLES
- CLASS 3: HELMET REQUIRED REGARDLESS OF AGE



### ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES



#### DIFFERENCES:

- HAS MOTORCYCLE PEGS
- SIMILAR TO AN OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE



#### WHERE YOU CAN RIDE:

- PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY OR OHV TRAILS WITH GREEN STICKER.



#### REQUIREMENTS:

- D.O.T. APPROVED HELMET
- SUBJECT TO IMPOUNDMENT IF ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.



**PASO ROBLES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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## CLASS 1 E-BIKE

Pedal-Assist Only  
Motor provides assistance  
only when pedaling.



Generally allowed where  
bicycles are permitted.



Riders under 18 years of  
age must wear a helmet.



Top Motor-Assisted Speed:  
Up to 20 MPH

### KEY POINTS

- Operable pedals required
- No throttle
- Follows the rules of a bicycle



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## CLASS 2 E-BIKE

Throttle-Assisted  
Motor can propel the bike  
without pedaling.



Generally allowed where  
bicycles are permitted.



Riders under 18 years of  
age must wear a helmet.



Top Motor-Assisted Speed:  
Up to 20 MPH

### KEY POINTS

- Operable pedals required
- Throttle may be used
- Follows the rules of a bicycle



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## CLASS 3 E-BIKE

Pedal-Assist Only  
Motor provides assistance  
only when pedaling.



Not allowed on bike paths  
or trails unless specifically  
authorized.



All riders must wear a  
helmet regardless of age.



Top Motor-Assisted Speed:  
Up to 28 MPH

### KEY POINTS

- Operable pedals required
- No throttle
- Not allowed on bike paths or  
trails unless specifically authorized



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## E-MOTORCYCLES (OFF-ROAD USE ONLY)

Configured for off-road use (such as  
Surron, Talaria, E-Ride Pro, etc).



Not allowed on public roadways,  
sidewalks, bike paths, or trails.



E-Motorcycles do not  
have operable pedals.



Many may be registered with  
the DMV as off-highway  
vehicles and operated on  
designated OHV trails.

### KEY POINTS

- Designed and intended for off-road use
- Subject to different laws and regulations
- May require registration to operate  
on OHV trails



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