



# PROMOTING E-BIKE SAFETY FOR OUR BEACH CITIES YOUTH

Electric bikes, also known as e-bikes, have become very popular in the Beach Cities. As popularity is growing, the safety concerns are too. Although e-bikes and bicycles may look the same, it is important to remember that e-bikes are much heavier, faster, and different to control. Take the time to help your child understand their e-bike, where it can be ridden legally and know the rules of the road.

## Types of E-bikes:

An electric bicycle, or e-bike, is a bicycle with an electric motor of less than 750 watts that assist you when you're pedaling. To classify as an e-bike, the motor has to help you rather than propel you on its own. The motor will get its power from a rechargeable battery mounted on the bike. According to the DMV, three classes of electric bicycles have been established:



### Class 1:

A low speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling. This e-bike will not accelerate any faster 20 mph.



### Class 2:

A low speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle that can reach up to 20 mph. The bicycle has an electric motor which can exclusively propel the bicycle without the rider having to pedal.



### Class 3:

A pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a speedometer and motor that provides assistance when the rider is pedaling. This e-bike can go up to 28 mph. The operator of a class 3 e-bike must be a minimum of 16 years of age. All riders must wear a helmet, regardless of age.

## Types of risk:

While e-bikes can help get you to your destinations with more ease, if not used properly, it can lead to many risks.

- The biggest risk associated with e-bikes are injuries from increased speeds. Injuries can occur with any wheeled device like manual bicycles, skateboards or scooters, but because e-bikes can travel up to around 30 mph, the speed can cause more severe injuries.
- Another risk associated with e-bikes is a lack of operator skill and knowledge. Unfortunately, there is no formal road safety course required to use an e-bike. Riders need to have basic knowledge of traffic rules and situational awareness to ride safely and decrease the risk of injuries on the road.

## Understand the Responsibilities:



**Always wear a helmet.** Protect your brain, head and face from potential injury by wearing a helmet. Helmets reduce your risk of injury. State law requires children under 18 to wear a helmet when riding any kind of bicycle, scooter or skateboard, including those that are electric powered.



**Stop means stop.** Bicyclists must come to a complete stop at any stop sign or stoplight and yield to those who arrive first.



**Make Yourself Seen.** Wear bright or reflective clothing, use your headlight and running lights, if equipped, and ride in the best lane position to see and be seen.



**Scan your path of travel.** Look at least 10 to 15 seconds ahead. Allow yourself enough space when following, being followed, lane splitting, passing, and being passed.



**Be prepared to act.** Remain alert. Monitor vehicle traffic in front and approaching traffic from behind while maintaining an escape route.



**Same road, same rules.** Motorist and bicyclist are granted the same rights and responsibilities on public streets. Both must obey the laws and the rules of the road.



**Ride in the direction of traffic.** Always ride in the direction of traffic and leave space between you and cars for braking.



## State and Local Laws

### Common types of infractions (California Vehicle Code):

- An operator shall not allow a person riding as a passenger on a bicycle, other than upon a separate seat attached thereto.
- An operator must use the bicycle lane if traveling less than normal speed for traffic.
- Bicyclist must travel the same direction as vehicles on the roadway.
- Bicyclists must stop at the limit line for any posted stop sign.
- Bicyclist may not wear a headset covering both ears.

### Hermosa Beach Municipal Codes:

- It is unlawful for any person to ride or operate any wheeled vehicle or device, propelled by human or motorized power, including bicycles, skateboards, roller skates and electric personal assistive mobility devices on or over any sidewalk or part of a sidewalk within a commercial zone in the city.
- No electric or motorized bicycle, moped, electric scooter, electric skateboard, or motorized vehicle of any kind other than those used for the purpose of protecting life or property shall be ridden, pedaled, walked, carried onto or otherwise enter any portion of the Strand walkway, Pier Plaza, or beach at any time when the motorized- or electric-propelled power is in use.

### Redondo Beach Municipal Codes:

- It is unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle, skateboard, or roller skates on any sidewalk properly posted or signed prohibiting such riding.
- Bicycle riding is prohibited on any portion of any pier or parking structure.

### Manhattan Beach Municipal Codes:

- No person shall ride or operate a bicycle on any sidewalk in the City except on paths or parts of a roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle upon or across The Strand.