



## Community Message Regarding Youth E-Bike Safety

From Marin County Public Health, Marin County Police Chiefs Association,  
and the Marin County Office of Education

August 7, 2024

***After ten months, the data is in.*** It is striking and requires we take action in our community. In Marin County, young people aged 10-15 are over 5 times more likely than any other age group to be involved in a serious e-bike accident resulting in a 911 call. Some of these accidents have resulted in head trauma and prolonged hospitalizations.

As school, law enforcement and public health leaders we are writing to inform you about actions being taken to address this deeply concerning trend, and invite you to be part of the solution.

As we prepare for a return to school, parents can expect new measures regarding e bike safety in the school community. Following a successful program piloted last year in the Novato Unified School District, the Tamalpais Union High School District and many Marin County middle and high schools will begin requiring bicycles parked at school be registered and have on-site permits. These permitting programs will help ensure that riders and parents are educated about core safety measures, and that vehicles in use are legal and safe for young people.

Over the course of last school year, consensus emerged among our law enforcement community that some of the vehicles our youth are riding may not be legal for anyone under age 16, because they exceed established speed limitations for e-bikes. An important goal for this fall is ensuring that the e-powered vehicles our students are riding are in fact legal and follow established safety regulations. Bicyclists, even youth, are required to follow the California Vehicle Code.

The school-based strategies are one element of a larger, inter-agency effort countywide to protect our youth from preventable injuries related to e-bikes. Here is a list of actions being taken across Marin to reverse the trend.

- In the Fall of 2023, Marin County Supervisor, Mary Sackett convened a meeting of health and safety leaders to address growing concerns around e-bike safety, particularly among youth.
- On October 7, 2023, Marin County Public Health launched the [Marin County Bicycle Accident Dashboard](#) , which describes all bicycle accidents resulting in 911 responses in Marin County. by age group. . As the data has come in, the situation and call to action for focusing on youth safety has become increasingly clear.
- The April 26, 2024, Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, ***“With Power Comes Responsibility”*** reinforces our concerns and our call to action, concluding that children under the age of 16 who operate class 2 e-bikes in Marin pose a danger to themselves and others.

- Marin Safe Routes to School has provided training workshops at schools and focused on e-bike safety and conducted a count of all e-devices (legal e-bikes, and out of class vehicles) parked at school campuses throughout the county. This information was shared at the May School / Law Enforcement meeting, bringing focus to the challenges we face as a community.
- The Marin County Bicycle Coalition has a [buyer's guide](#) listing the type of legal e-bikes and those that fall out of this category, and has an [E-Bike Smart Marin](#) program, which includes a [Teen Program](#).
- Assemblymember Damon Connolly has introduced AB 1778, which if passed would have Marin County pilot a program prohibiting individuals under 16 from operating Class 2 (throttle assist) e-bikes.
- Assemblymember Connolly, Supervisor Sackett, and Dr. Willis testified to the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission on the need to prioritize e-bike safety in their 2024 regulatory agenda, based in the Marin County experience as an early adopter of e-bikes.

Marin County continues to rank as one of the healthiest places to live in California, and we want to continue to encourage young people to walk and bike to school. We also want to do everything we can to promote safety, and we need your help.

Please talk to your students, work with your school, seek out resources at [Marin Safe Routes to School](#), take the [CHP e-bike safety class](#). Reach out to your local law enforcement jurisdiction if you have a question about the [classification of your e-bike](#) (or e-motorcycle).

We are confident that if we can come together as a community, parents, students, schools, law enforcement agencies, health care providers, public health, and our bicycling advocacy organizations, we can navigate this challenge and keep our young people safe, and our community vibrant and healthy.

Thank you!



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