The Bonney Lake Police Department has received an increased number of complaints of electric motorcycles driving recklessly throughout the city. Complaints are of riders, mostly being reported as juveniles, that are speeding, running stop signs/red lights, doing wheelies, and almost hitting other vehicles or pedestrians walking on sidewalks. This reckless behavior is not only a danger to the public, but to the rider as well. These types of vehicles are not classified as an electric bicycle and are not allowed to be operated on the roadway unless the regulations below are met.

What Every Electric Motorcycle Rider Must Know:

- **Definition and Features:** Electric motorcycles are powered solely by an electric motor with no operable pedals, typically exceeding 750 watts, and capable of speeds well above 28 mph.
- **Age and License Requirements:** It is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to operate an electric motorcycle. Operators must also hold a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. Electric motorcycles can be impounded under RCW 46.55.113(2)(h).
- **Registration and Insurance:** Electric motorcycles must be registered with the Department of Licensing (DOL) and display a license plate. Washington State law also requires these vehicles to be insured. Riding an unregistered or uninsured electric motorcycle on public streets is illegal.
- **Equipment Requirements:** Electric motorcycles are subject to the same equipment standards as traditional motorcycles. They must have functioning brakes, headlights, taillights, reflectors and mirrors. Riders are also required to wear a motorcycle-rated helmet when operating on public roads (see RCW 46.37.530).
- **Where They Can (and Can't) Go:** Electric motorcycles without all the required road components are only allowed on private property or at recreational parks that allow similar vehicles such as dirt bikes. As motor vehicles, electric motorcycles must follow all applicable motor vehicle laws. It is illegal to operate them on sidewalks, paths, bike lanes or multi-use trails anywhere in Washington. They are permitted only on roadways, just like any other motorcycle.