

The Growing Need for E-Bike Safety

E-bikes have quickly become one of the fastest-growing modes of transportation across California and the United States. With their convenience, affordability, and eco-friendly appeal, more residents are choosing e-bikes for both leisure and daily commuting. However, with this surge in popularity comes a significant rise in accidents and injuries, highlighting the importance of rider safety and awareness.

E-Bike Accident Trends in California

The data tells a striking story. According to California’s Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS), e-bike collisions have increased more than 18 times in just five years—rising from 184 incidents in 2018 to 3,429 incidents in 2023. Studies are not yet out for 2024-2025. These crashes tend to be more severe than traditional bicycle accidents, largely due to the higher speeds and heavier frames of e-bikes, combined with many riders’ inexperience.

National Trends Reflect the Same Concerns

The sharp rise in California mirrors what’s happening nationwide. Across the U.S., e-bike injuries have been described as “soaring,” with some studies showing injury numbers more than tripling between 2017 and 2022. Compared to traditional cyclists, e-bike riders face a greater risk of severe injuries, and helmet use among those injured has been found to be much lower.

Why Are Accidents Increasing?

Several key factors contribute to the growing number of e-

bike accidents: Increased Popularity: Rapid sales growth means more inexperienced riders are on the road.

Speed & Weight: The higher speeds and heavier design of e-bikes amplify crash risks.

Rider Behavior: Risky habits such as riding under the influence or without a helmet add to the danger.

Modified E-Bikes: Some riders tamper with their bikes to bypass speed limits, dramatically raising accident severity.

Reporting Changes: Updates in how fatalities are categorized have also contributed to the higher official numbers.

Safety Education is Key

As e-bikes continue to grow in popularity, education is one of the best defenses against accidents. Understanding traffic rules, wearing protective gear, and learning how to handle the unique performance of e-bikes can greatly reduce risks for riders of all ages.

We strongly encourage parents and guardians to talk with their youth about e-bike safety and go through the course together. Having open conversations and reviewing the material side by side can help young riders understand