



# HUGO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2025



## ALL ABOUT E-BIKES

As the popularity of e-bicycles has exploded, so have calls to the Sheriff's Office about them, ranging from nuisance issues such as teens riding them in parks to serious incidents involving accidents and injuries. Early fall still provides plenty of time for riding – maybe even to school – so it's helpful to know some basics about e-bike capabilities, statistics, and safety issues.

Depending on their class, e-bikes can reach speeds of 28mph and are legal on sidewalks, trails, streets, and private property, with permission. They are not permitted in public parks. Safety rules require e-bike riders under 18 to wear a helmet. E-bikes cannot have passengers and must use a headlight and rear reflector if riding at night. (*See attached chart.*) These speedy riders can take pedestrians as well as drivers by surprise, often resulting in complaints and near misses, all the way to full-on crashes.

On a national level, e-bike accidents surged from around 3,500 in 2017 to 34,200 in 2023, according to the latest numbers from [Consumer Shield](#). Roughly 38% of e-bike crashes nationally involve motor vehicles. Most e-bike accidents are single-vehicle accidents where the rider loses control and hits a stationary object, like a parked car, or runs off the road. Many riders take time to adjust to e-bikes, and they risk crashing while they learn how to use them. Motor vehicle drivers, on the other hand, often don't hear these quiet bikes, or they misjudge their speed or distance. Inattention and distracted driving are also a common cause of crashes with e-bikes.

With e-bike ridership still growing, it's important to be aware of the laws and local ordinances that apply wherever you ride. Always use caution, follow traffic rules, and wear the proper safety gear. Let's all do our part to ride responsibly and safely — so everyone can make the most of these final weeks of good weather before winter rolls in.

NUMBER OF  
INCIDENTS

356

TRAFFIC  
STOPS

256

CITATIONS

85



## WC25044168 ACCIDENT

14XXX FOREST BOULEVARD N

At 9:03pm on Aug. 15, deputies arrived at the scene of a reported e-bicycle crash. They found the 26-year-old e-bike rider inside a liquor store, where he was being assisted by the 911 caller with road rash on his legs and deeper cuts on an arm and face. While helping to render aid, a deputy noticed a strong odor of alcohol coming from the rider, who admitted drinking before crashing the e-bike. After paramedics arrived, the deputy brought the e-bike to the rider's home to give it to his mother and let her know about the crash.

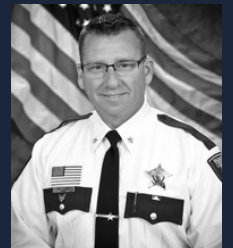
## WC25045359 ACCIDENT

EVERTON AVENUE N & 149TH STREET N

At 4:50pm on Aug. 22, deputies arrived at the scene of an accident involving an SUV and an e-bike. The SUV driver told deputies that a teen on an e-bike entered the road in front of her from a trail west of the intersection and hit the SUV on the front passenger side. The e-bike rider fell off and had minor scrapes; the rider said he was OK and left after giving his first name and phone number. The driver later called to report the crash. Deputies identified the rider from prior contact and went to his residence, where they spoke with the teen and his mother. The rider said he had been trying to catch up with friends and hadn't seen the SUV in time to stop. The rider declined medical attention. Deputies completed a state accident report.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

We would be remiss if we didn't give a shout-out to all the citizens who gathered and celebrated National Night to Unite on Aug. 5. Our deputies and staff look forward to this annual event for the connections it solidifies and builds between law enforcement and the people we serve. Washington County deputies and command staff attended around 90 gatherings this year, both in communities where we patrol every day as well as with other law enforcement agencies in their cities. We thought you'd enjoy seeing some of the great photos we got from all over. Thank you for helping to make it such a special summer evening. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos!



*Dan Starry*



Patrol Commander Halverson makes a friend at Water's Edge in Hugo.








Sheriff Starry with some of Hugo's city council members.



This youngster looks pretty happy to be checking out a Sheriff's squad in Hugo.

# KNOW THE DIFFERENCE & RIDE SAFE

Reference MN Statute 169.011 for Definitions

CATEGORY	Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device	Motorized Foot Scooter	E-Bike (Classes 1-3)	Motorized Bicycle	Motorcycle
PHOTO					
PEDAL-ASSIST MOTOR	No	No	Yes	Maybe	No
MOTOR/ENGINE SIZE		100-750 watts	<750 watts	<1500 watts or <49cc	>1500 watts or >49cc
MAX SPEED	15	20	20 or 28 (Class 3)	30	>30
LICENSE REQUIRED	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
MINIMUM AGE	12	12	15	15	15
HELMET REQUIRED	<18	<18	<18	<18	<18
WHERE CAN I RIDE	Sidewalks Trails Streets (Limited) Private property	Trails Streets Private property	Sidewalk Trails Streets Private property	Streets Off-highway Private property	Streets Off-highway Private property
* Riding on private property requires permission from the property owner					
PASSENGER	No	No	No	If equipped with seat & footrests	If equipped with seat & footrests
NIGHTTIME	Reflectors	Headlight & taillight	Headlight & rear reflector	Headlight & taillight	Headlight & taillight
STATUTE	169.212	169.225	169.222	169.223	169.974

## Ride Safe Tips:

- Know the laws and ordinances
- Wear a helmet
- Ride at a reasonable speed and be aware of your surroundings
- Ride in the same direction as traffic on the right side
- Warn pedestrians and pass cautiously on the left
- Signal turns and yield at intersections
- Use lights and extra caution after dusk