



Snoqualmie Police Department

10.36 Electric Motorcycles



**Public Safety Committee
October 6, 2025**



10.36 Electric Motorcycles

RCW 46.04.332 Motor-driven Cycle

- "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor that produces not to exceed five brake horsepower (developed by a prime mover, as measured by a brake applied to the driving shaft). A motor-driven cycle does not include a moped, a power wheelchair, a motorized foot scooter, or an electric personal assistive mobility device.

Electric Motorcycles



- Electric Motorcycles are not legal to operate on any public road, sidewalk, bike lane, park, or trail (even if they have a taillight or blinkers).
- To be made street legal, the owner would need to obtain a license plate, registration, and insurance, much like a normal motorcycle.
- An electric motorcycle (e-motorcycle) is a motorcycle that uses an electric motor instead of a gasoline engine. E-motorcycles can reach higher speeds than electric bikes, which are typically limited to 20 mph or less. E-motorcycles can reach speeds of up to 100 mph or more.
- They are to be used on motorized trails and are similar to dirt bikes.





10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.010 Definitions - City

- “City Property” means any park, parking lot, municipal facility or other real property owned by the city.
- “City Street” means every public highway, road or street, as defined in Chapter 46.04 RCW, or part thereof, located within the city.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



10.36.010 Definitions – Electric Motorcycle

- “Electric motorcycle” means a motorcycle, as defined by RCW 46.04.330, which is powered by an electric motor and:
- Is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of propelling it. Foot pegs are not considered pedals; or
 - Has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts; or
 - Has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the vehicle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.



10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.010 Definitions – Impound

- “Impound” means removal of a vehicle, electric motorcycle, or similar motorized device to a storage facility either by a law enforcement officer of the Snoqualmie Police Department or by a contractor for towing and storage “City Street” means every public highway, road or street, as defined in Chapter 46.04 RCW, or part thereof, located within the city.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



10.36.010 Definitions – Helmet

- “Motorcycle helmet” means a protective covering for the head consisting of a hard outer shell, padding adjacent to and inside the outer shell, and a neck or chin strap type retention system, with the manufacturer's certification applied in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.218 indicating that the motorcycle helmet meets standards established by the United States department of transportation.



10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.020 General Operation Requirements

- No person under the age of 16 shall operate an electric motorcycle within the City of Snoqualmie.
- No person shall operate an electric motorcycle that is not registered with the Washington State Department of Licensing and does not have a valid license plate.
- To be operated on a public street or road, an electric motorcycle must meet the requirements of RCW 46.61.705.
- No person shall cause or knowingly permit his or her child or ward under the age of eighteen years to operate an electric motorcycle in violation of this chapter.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



10.36.020 General Operation Requirements (cont'd)

- No person shall use or operate an electric motorcycle upon any sidewalk, public trail, city park, or city open space within the city of Snoqualmie.
- Every electric motorcycle when in use during hours of darkness as defined in RCW 46.37.020 shall display a lighted headlight, lighted stop light, and at least two illuminating rear reflectors.
- No person shall operate an electric motorcycle while carrying a passenger.
- No person shall tow any person or thing while operating an electric motorcycle.



10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.020 Penalties

- Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have committed a traffic infraction and shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - First offense: \$250 and possible referral for criminal charges.
 - Second offense: \$500 and possible referral for criminal charges.
 - Third and subsequent offenses: \$750 and possible referral for criminal charges.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



10.36.030 Traffic Laws Apply

- Every person riding an electric motorcycle upon a public way shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle pursuant to Chapter 46.61 RCW, except special regulations in RCW 46.61.750 through 46.61.780 shall apply to persons operating a motorized foot scooter or electric motorcycle and except as to those provisions of Chapter 46.61 RCW which by their nature can have no application.



10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.040 Helmet Required and Penalty

- Any person operating a motorcycle, electric motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or moped on city streets, right-of-way or alleys of the city of Snoqualmie, or on any city property as defined in SMC 10.35.010(D), shall wear an approved motorcycle helmet designed for safety and shall have either the neck or the chin strap of the helmet fastened securely while the vehicle is in motion.
- Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have committed a traffic infraction and shall be subject to a penalty of \$75.00.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



10.36.050 Impoundment

- A law enforcement officer may impound any electric motorcycle operated in violation of this chapter.
- The Police Department shall, as soon as practicable after impounding any vehicle, obtain the name and address of the registered owner of the impounded vehicle shown by the records of the authority last licensing the vehicle. After obtaining such information, the Police Department shall send a written notice to such owner that the vehicle has been impounded.



10.36 – Electric Motorcycles

10.36.050 Impoundment (cont'd)

- All towing and hauling and storage charges on each vehicle impounded pursuant to this chapter shall be paid by the owner thereof or his or her agent, or other persons redeeming the vehicle. If the vehicle is not redeemed, such charges shall be paid as provided in RCW 46.52.110. In no event shall the city be liable for any such charge, and the owner of each garage approved as a vehicle pound, pursuant to this chapter, by accepting his or her city contract shall be considered as so stipulating.

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



RCW 46.04.169 – Electric Assisted Bicycle

- "Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, **fully operative pedals for human propulsion**, and an electric motor.
- The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts.
- The electric-assisted bicycle must meet the requirements of one of the following three classifications:..."

10.36 – Electric Motorcycles



Legal Electric Bicycles – Class 1, 2, and 3

LEGAL EBIKE CLASSIFICATIONS			
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
			
Pedal-Assist			
Throttle			
Maximum Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph



Thank You

Questions?

www.snoqualmiewa.gov