

Castle Pines City Council approves new rules for off-highway and low-speed electric vehicles to improve safety



WHAT VEHICLES DO THESE RULES APPLY TO?

These rules apply to off-highway vehicles like electric dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs, and to certain low-speed electric vehicles. They do not apply to e-bikes or electric scooters.

CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE?

Yes. Parents or legal guardians may be held financially responsible if a minor illegally operates an off-highway vehicle on public property. Fines range from \$250 to \$2,650, with additional fines possible for reckless driving, careless driving, or evading law enforcement.

WHAT COUNTS AS CARELESS OR RECKLESS DRIVING?

Careless driving means operating the vehicle without proper care for things like road width, curves, intersections, traffic, and surrounding conditions. **Reckless driving** is more serious and means operating with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of people or property.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORDINANCE?

Scan the QR code below for more details about the ordinance.



PURPOSE OF THE NEW RULES

As the use of electric-powered and recreational vehicles has increased, the City has seen growing concern about unsafe riding behavior, especially when these vehicles are operated by minors on public streets, trails, alleys, and other public property. On April 28, 2026, the Castle Pines City Council approved Ordinance 26-04, establishing new local rules for certain motorized vehicles. These updates are intended to improve safety for riders, drivers, pedestrians, and neighbors throughout the community. The new rules apply to off-highway vehicles and low-speed electric vehicles operating within Castle Pines and give the City and law enforcement clearer rules to address unsafe operation and to help prevent injuries and property damage.

WHAT TYPE OF VEHICLES ARE COVERED?

The ordinance covers two general categories of vehicles: off-highway vehicles and low-speed electric vehicles. (The ordinance does not apply to electric bikes or electric scooters.):

Rules for off-highway vehicles (e.g., electric dirt bikes, ATVs, UTVs)

- Under State law, off-highway vehicles may **NOT** be driven on City streets, sidewalks, or trails.
- Parents or guardians can be held responsible if a minor is illegally operating one of these vehicles on public streets, trails, alleys, or other public property. Violations subject to a minimum \$250 fine up to \$2,650. Like with motor vehicles, fines are also enforceable for offenses related to reckless or careless driving.
- The ordinance prohibits a rider from willfully failing to stop or trying to evade a police officer after receiving a lawful order to stop.
- Operators under age 18 must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet.
- Vehicles may be impounded by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office if they are being operated illegally.

Rules for low-speed electric vehicles

- Drivers must have a valid driver's license.
- If the vehicle came from the factory with seat belts, all occupants must use them.
- Children must be secured in the proper child restraint or car seat when required.

What is not included

- These rules do not apply to electric bikes or scooters.

WHY THIS MATTERS

An increase in reckless use of electric recreation vehicles has occurred across Douglas County. These changes are intended to improve safety and reduce dangerous vehicle use in the community by ensuring e-bike users are driving in an appropriate and safe manner that complies with established road safety rules.

