## 🚨 ATTENTION PARENTS: Is your child's "e-bike" actually an illegal motorcycle?

The Fort Atkinson Police Department is warning families about "eMotos" (like Sur-ron, Talaria, or similar high-powered battery dirt bikes). Many parents are buying these thinking they are regular e-bikes, but riding them on public streets, sidewalks, or bike paths is **illegal and carries major risks**.

Here is what you need to know to protect your kids—and yourself:

### 🚲 THE 4-QUESTION CHECKLIST

If your child's ride fails even *one* of these Wisconsin state law rules, it cannot legally leave your private driveway:

1. **Does it have pedals?** Legal e-bikes must have fully functional pedals. If it has foot pegs, it's an e-motorcycle.
2. **How fast does it go?** Legal e-bikes cut off motor help at 20 or 28 mph. E-motos easily hit 40 to 50+ mph.
3. **How old is your rider?** By Wisconsin law, no one under 16 can legally ride a fast Class 3 e-bike (up to 28 mph).
4. **Does it have a VIN?** Street-legal vehicles need a VIN, DMV registration, and insurance. E-motos don't have these, meaning they **cannot** be registered for street use.

### ⚠️ THE LIABILITY FOR PARENTS

Allowing a child to ride an eMoto on public roads comes with strict penalties:

- **Tickets & Towing:** Police can—and will—impound the bike. Because they can't be registered, getting them back is incredibly difficult and costly.
- **Citations/Charges:** Parents can be cited or charged for knowingly allowing an unlicensed minor to operate an illegal motor vehicle.
- **Insurance Gaps:** Standard home or auto insurance policies usually **do not** cover injuries or damage caused by an illegal, unregistered vehicle.

### 🚑 THE SAFETY HAZARD

Emergency rooms are seeing a steep spike in severe pediatric injuries from eMotos. Standard bicycle helmets are *not* designed for motorcycle speeds. If your child is riding an eMoto off-road, they must wear a **DOT-approved motorcycle helmet** and full protective gear.

### 💡 WHAT TO DO NEXT

Keep these bikes strictly on private property or designated off-road trails. If you bought one by mistake, local authorities recommend returning it or swapping it for a legal Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike.

Let's keep our kids and our neighborhoods safe! 🛑

Wisconsin Bike Fed E-Bike Resources  The World of e-Things Info Resource