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PRESS RELEASE

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RULES ON MOTORIZED / ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

With the increase in the number of electric scooters being ridden around town by both children and adults, the Coalinga Police Department would like to put out some information everybody should know.

California Vehicle Code Section 407.5(a) defines a “motorized scooter” as any two-wheeled device that has handlebars, has either a floorboard that is designed to be stood upon when riding or a seat and footrests in place of the floorboard, and is powered by an electric motor. This device may also be designed to be powered by human propulsion.

California Vehicle Code Section 407.5(b) includes scooters that are powered by a source other than electrical power, meaning gas powered engines.

Having those definitions in mind, here are some of the California Vehicle Code Sections (CVC) to be aware of when it comes to these scooters.

CVC 12500(b) – A person may not drive a motorized scooter without a driver’s license or permit for a motorcycle.

CVC 21221.5 – No person may operate a motorized scooter on the highway while intoxicated.

CVC 21223(a-c) – Motorized scooters must be equipped with authorized lamps and reflectors when operated during darkness.

CVC 21228 – A person riding a motorized scooter at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction must ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or right edge of the roadway.

CVC 21228(b) – When making a left turn, the operator shall stop and dismount as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or right edge of the roadway and complete the turn by crossing the roadway on foot.

CVC 21229 – When a bicycle lane is present, the motorized scooter must be ridden within the bicycle lane.

CVC 21235 - The operator of a motorized scooter shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Operate a motorized scooter unless it is equipped with a brake
- (b) Operate a motorized scooter on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour unless the motorized scooter is operated within a bicycle lane.
- (c) Operate a motorized scooter without wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards described in Section 21212, if the operator is under 18 years of age.
- (d) Operate a motorized scooter without a valid driver's license or instruction permit.
- (e) Operate a motorized scooter with any passengers in addition to the operator.
- (f) Operate a motorized scooter carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- (g) Operate a motorized scooter upon a sidewalk, except as may be necessary to enter or leave adjacent property.
- (h) Operate a motorized scooter on the highway with the handlebars raised so that the operator must elevate his or her hands above the level of his or her shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.
- (i) Leave a motorized scooter lying on its side on any sidewalk, or park a motorized scooter on a sidewalk in any other position, so that there is not an adequate path for pedestrian traffic.
- (j) Attach the motorized scooter or himself or herself while on the roadway, by any means, to any other vehicle on the roadway.

CVC 21650.1 – The motorized scooter must be ridden the same direction as motor vehicle traffic.

CVC 22411 – No person shall operate a motorized scooter in excess of 15MPH.

While there are a lot of different sections that apply to motorized / electric scooters, it is important for everybody's safety if the rules are followed. Unfortunately, this also limits who can ride these scooters, as a driver's license or learners permit is required.

For questions or general concerns related to animal welfare, please contact the Coalinga Police Department at (559) 935-1525.