

Pocket bikes and Golf Carts

Captain Tim Frazier



Citizen Complaints

- There have been numerous major crashes involving pocket bikes/mini-motorcycles that have caused serious injuries.
- We have received multiple citizen complaints on issues regarding pocket bikes/mini-motorcycles.
- Individuals riding these vehicles on major roadways, such as on Ocean Drive or Yorktown have generated complaints.
- Complaints of kids riding these unlicensed vehicles in an unsafe manner.
- While not a new issue, it has recently become more prolific

Pocket Bike/Mini-Motorcycles

- Defined Texas Trans. Code 551.351
- Electric or gas engine of not more than 50 cubic cm
- Not designed for highway use
- Can not be registered
- Per Texas Trans. Code 551.353 can not be driven on highway, road, street, sidewalk or bike path
- Anything 50 cc's or more must be registered as a motorcycle and may be driven on roadway with license plate and valid license with motorcycle endorsement
- Any electric bike with power output of more than 750 watts is not street legal



Golf Carts

- Defined Texas Trans. Code 541.401
- Designed primarily for use on golf course
- Per Texas Trans. Code 541.402 must obtain license plate that never expires
- Subsequent owners of same golf cart must purchase new plate
- Per Texas Trans. Code 551.403, 551.4031 551.404 and City Ordinance 53-109
- May operate on a public highway of 35 mph or less
- In a master planned community, within 2 miles from the location it is normally parked and during the daytime
- Most of Padre Island and North Beach
- Operator must have valid driver's license



Enforcement

- The Department has been using a combination of education and enforcement and will be increasing enforcement in preparation for the summer.
- The Department will be conducting specialized enforcement to address the issues.



Education

- A public service announcement regarding the rules and regulations regarding the use of the aforementioned vehicles has been released via Department's social media
- It is important for parents to educate their children on the safe practices of riding, along with knowing where they can or can not ride



Repercussions

- Violators may receive citations
- Vehicles may be impounded
- Parents of children found riding the illegal vehicles will be cited for allowing their children to do so
- In the end, we are asking the adults riding the bikes to follow the law, and the parents to educate their children

Questions?