



Electric Vehicle Accidents

(2023 - 2025)

Prepared for: Chief Rich Ferguson

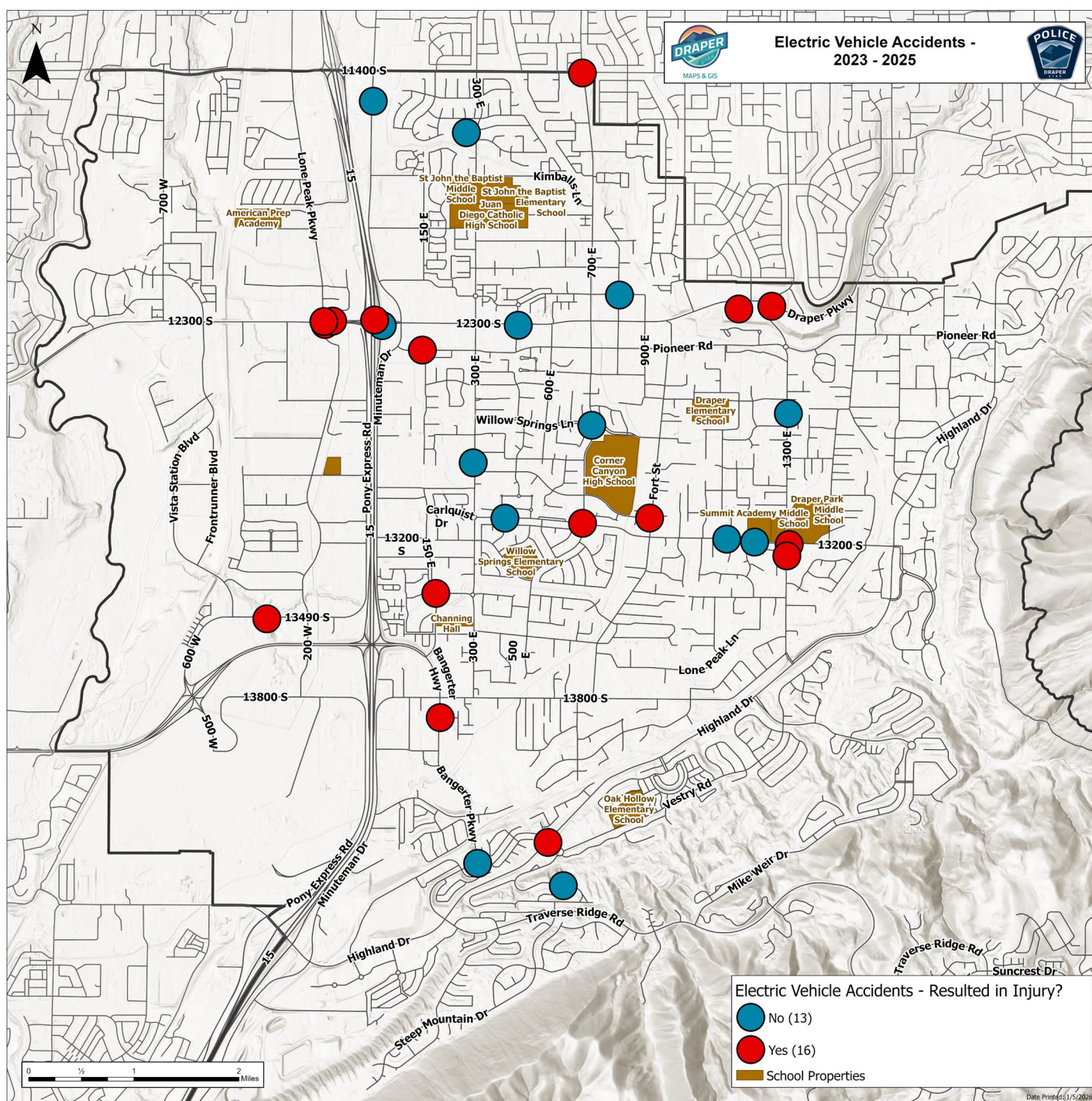
Date: February 3, 2025



Summary

Electric Vehicle Accidents (2023 - 2025)

- ▶ 29 accidents involved electric vehicles
- ▶ 25 of these involved electric scooters
- ▶ Accidents were distributed evenly across the city, with no concentration in school zones or residential neighborhoods
- ▶ Ages of individuals involved ranged from 9 to 58 years old
 - ▶ 12 accidents involved individuals 15 years old or younger
- ▶ Fault was divided between parties
 - ▶ In at least 12 accidents, the scooter operator was deemed primarily responsible due to excessive speed or reckless behavior
- ▶ 16 accidents occurred in crosswalks
 - ▶ In the vast majority of these cases, motor vehicle drivers reported that the EV/scooter “darted out” and was not visible





Injuries

Motor-assisted/Electric Scooter Outcomes

- ▶ No fatal accidents recorded
- ▶ Of 29 total accidents:
 - ▶ 14 resulted in injuries to the scooter operator/rider
 - ▶ 7 riders were transported to the hospital

Notable Case (2024-26434):

- ▶ 15 year old rider narrowly avoided striking their head on a curb, but the scooter was totaled in the process



2025-26434, Source: AXON

Questions & Discussion

- ▶ Questions on the accident data or trends?
- ▶ Observations from your experience?

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Motor-Assisted Scooters under Utah Law (Utah Code § 41-6a-102(48))

- ▶ A "motor-assisted scooter" is a self-propelled device with:
 - At least two wheels in contact with the ground
 - A braking system capable of stopping under typical conditions
 - An electric motor $\leq 2,000$ watts
 - Handlebars and either:
 - A deck for standing, or
 - A seat for sitting, straddling, or standing
- Design allowing propulsion by human power alone
- Maximum speed of 20 mph on a paved level surface

Key Operating Rules & Restrictions (Utah Code § 41-6a-1115)

- Generally follows **bicycle rules**, not considered a “motor vehicle”
- Exempt from: Driver licensing, certain lights/horns/mirrors, full lane entitlement, specific seating rules
- **Prohibited:**
 - Operation by children under 8 years old (with motor on) on public property, highways, paths, or sidewalks (could change to “on a highway” only)
 - Carrying more passengers than designed for
 - Structural/mechanical alterations (except rental speed reductions)
 - Speed > 15 mph (or local sidewalk limits)
 - Use in public parking structures or areas posted as prohibiting bicycles
- Allowed in crosswalks if operated safely (no negligence, reasonable speed)
- With motor off: Treated as non-motorized (unless locally prohibited)
- Violation Level: Infraction (fine)
- ▶ **Additional:**
 - Cities may further regulate, including sidewalk use and speeds (§ 41-6a-1115.1)

Sidewalks, Parks, & Local Rules (Utah Code §§ 41-6a-1702, 41-6a-1115.1 & DCMC)

- ▶ Sidewalks: Generally prohibited for motorized vehicles
 - ▶ Motor-assisted scooters allowed only if locally authorized (e.g., by city ordinance - Draper does not have one)
- ▶ Parks/Trails (Draper City):
 - ▶ Draper has adopted state traffic code (Title 14)
 - ▶ Motorized vehicles generally prohibited in parks/trails/recreation areas (Title 15)
 - ▶ Unlawful to use scooters (or similar devices) in a dangerous/unsafe manner or to obstruct roadways
- ▶ Peace officers may inspect scooters if/with “reasonable cause” (unsafe/unequipped, or disrepair)

Questions, Comments & Guidance



- Reported data likely underrepresents total injuries
- Enforcement challenges often meet strong parental concerns
- Potential state law changes during 2026 General Session: HB 381 S2
 - Allows 8-15 yr olds to operate scooters and ebikes under direct adult supervision, or
 - Obtain a safety certificate!
 - 16+ years ok w/o supervision
 - Helmets required for all <21 yrs old (unless renting)
 - Cities can prohibit emotorcycles/high power edevices on sidewalks/trails