

OSF doctors warn: E-bikes and e-scooters are not toys

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Trauma surgeons at OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois in Peoria say they're seeing a sharp increase in serious injuries, especially among kids and young teens. They say crashes involving e-bikes and e-scooters are becoming one of the leading causes of severe trauma in children and young adults.

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Doctors say the danger isn't just speed. The added weight of battery-powered bikes can make crashes much worse.

Dr. Paul Jeziorczak, (pronounced yeah-ZORE-chuck) Trauma Medical Director, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois:

"Because of that added weight, the crash becomes more significant. So you can get entangled and trapped, and that added weight can cause more injuries that a normal bike wouldn't." (:12)

Doctors say they're treating devastating injuries, including traumatic brain injuries, spinal injuries and severe leg fractures that can require multiple surgeries.

They urge parents to treat e-bikes and e-scooters more like motorcycles than bicycles by following age recommendations, making sure riders wear helmets, avoiding distractions like headphones, and using only manufacturer-approved chargers to reduce the risk of battery fires.