

# OHV

All-terrain Vehicles Class 1 and 2  
Off-highway Motorcycles  
Off-road Vehicles

# REGULATIONS

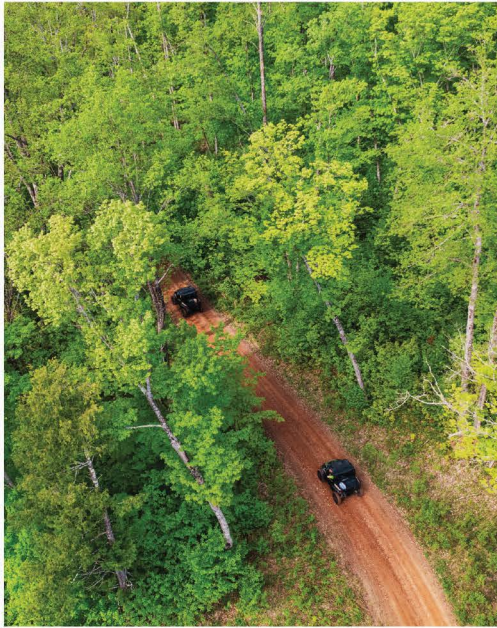




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## OHV DEFINITIONS

### Off-highway vehicle (OHV)

The term off-highway vehicle (OHV) includes all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), and off-road vehicles (ORVs).

### All-terrain vehicle (ATV)

ATVs have at least three, but no more than six, low-pressure or nonpneumatic tires (not filled with or containing compressed air) with a total dry weight less than 2,000 pounds and a total width from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim that is 65 inches or less. ATVs include Class 1 and Class 2. Dry weight is normally the weight of the vehicle without fluids. Vehicles not considered ATVs includes electric-assisted bicycles, golf carts, mini-trucks, dune buggies, go carts, or a vehicle designed and used specifically for lawn maintenance, agriculture, logging,

#### Class 1 ATVs

Width 50 inches or less.



#### Class 2 ATVs

Width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches.



### Off-highway motorcycle (OHM)

“Off-highway motorcycle” means a motorized, off-highway vehicle traveling on two wheels and having a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control, including a vehicle that is registered under chapter 168 for highway use if it is also used for off-highway operation on trails or unimproved terrain. Off-highway motorcycle does not include an electric-assisted bicycle.



### Off-road vehicle (ORV)

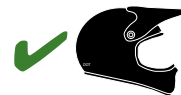
“Off-road vehicle” or “vehicle” means a motor-driven recreational vehicle capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain without benefit of a road or trail.



Off-road vehicle does not include a snowmobile; an ATV; a motorcycle; an electric-assisted bicycle; a watercraft; a farm vehicle being used for farming; a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes; a construction or logging vehicle used in the performance of its common function; a motor vehicle owned by or operated under contract with a utility, whether publicly or privately owned, when used for work on utilities; a commercial vehicle being used for its intended purpose; snow-grooming equipment when used for its intended purpose; or an aircraft.

### Approved helmet

An approved helmet is required to meet DOT specifications. DOT is the manufacturer’s certification that the helmet conforms to the applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. Bicycle and hockey helmets are not legal helmets.



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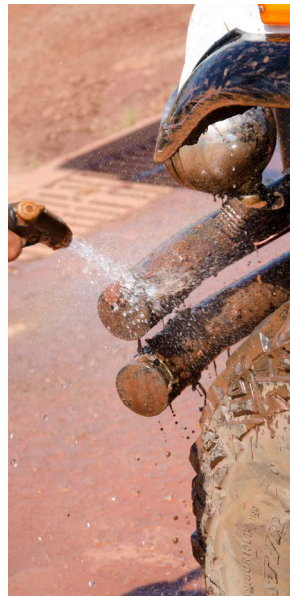
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

OHV Definitions .....	3
Frequently Asked Questions .....	8
Off-Highway Vehicle Registration .....	10
ATV Safety Training Requirements .....	16
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Operation .....	17
Off-Highway Vehicle Operations .....	22
Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM) .....	26
Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) .....	29
Trail Passes .....	30
Required Equipment for Off-Highway Vehicles .....	31
Enforcement .....	32
Public Lands and Trails .....	34
For More Information .....	39

## INVASIVE SPECIES

### STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS

- **REMOVE** plants, animals and mud from boots, gear, pets and vehicles by using a handheld brush.
- **CLEAN** your off-highway vehicle before entering and leaving the recreation site. Use water or compressed air to remove mud, seeds and plant material from tires and fenders.
- **STAY** on designated roads and trails to prevent spreading invasive species.
- **USE** certified or local firewood and hay.



## WHAT'S NEW: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

### SEAT BELT REQUIREMENT WITH CLASS 2 ATV

Effective Date July 1, 2025

(Minnesota Statute 169.686 Subd 1a)

A properly adjusted and fastened seat belt, including both the shoulder and lap belt when the vehicle is so equipped, must be worn by the driver and passengers. This applies to the operator and passengers of a class 2 all-terrain vehicle, when operated on or within the right-of-way of a public road when the all-terrain vehicle is factory-equipped with seat belts. (page 17)

Regulations in this booklet are effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Cover photo: Minnesota DNR

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## 2024 ATV SAFETY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has named Steve Rykhus, of New Ulm, as the 2024 ATV instructor of the year.

During the past 20 years, Rykhus has helped certify nearly 1,200 students at ATV safety classes in Brown and Lyon counties. In total, he's taught almost 70 classes between the two counties. Rykhus works hard to recruit new instructors to assist with his classes. He helps those new instructors feel confident teaching the students.

In addition to being an ATV safety instructor, Rykhus is also a certified firearms safety and snowmobile safety instructor. This is the second time the DNR has recognized his selfless efforts: Rykhus also was the volunteer firearms safety instructor of the year in 2014.

"Steve is devoted to introducing the next generation to the outdoors and providing the foundation the students need to enjoy a lifetime in the outdoors," said CO Thor Nelson, who is stationed in New Ulm. "He's passionate about volunteering as an instructor and is a great example of the very best of the thousands of people across the state who serve as volunteer safety instructors."

Rykhus is among the nearly 1,000 volunteer ATV safety instructors who work with DNR conservation officers to deliver ATV safety training certification. Details about safety courses and training are available at DNR website: [mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/atv](https://mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/atv), as are ATV regulations: [mndnr.gov/regulations/ohv](https://mndnr.gov/regulations/ohv).



Conservation Officer Thor Nelson and volunteer instructor Steve Rykhus

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHERE TO RIDE

#### Q: Can I drive my ATV on the side of a road or city street?

A: It depends on the type of ATV and age of operator. Check with local county and city officials or road authority.

#### Q: Can I operate an OHM in the ditches?

A: No, OHMs cannot be operated in ditches unless on a designated trail that includes OHMs.

#### Q: Do I need a valid driver's license to operate an ATV?

A: It depends on where you operate your ATV. A driver, age 16 and older, will need a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate within the road right-of-way. A valid driver's license is not needed for operation on state ATV trails.

#### Q: Can I ride my ATV or OHM on a snowmobile trail?

A: No, several thousand miles of snowmobile trails cross private land open only to snowmobiles from Dec 1st to March 31st. Regardless the time of year, any other motor vehicle use is considered trespassing.

#### Q: Where can I ride my ATV on Public lands?

A: For a list of trails for ATVs, see the riding opportunities at [mndnr.gov/ohv](http://mndnr.gov/ohv).

### EQUIPMENT

#### Q: Where can I ride my ATV if I put tracks on it?

A: Once you put tracks on a Class 1 or Class 2 ATV it is considered an ORV. You may operate:

- on frozen waters
- on state forest roads in state forests classified as "limited" or "managed"
- in ORV special use area
- on private property with permission of landowner

#### Q: Can I have an infant or toddler ride with me?

A: Under Minnesota law, anyone under age 18 is required to wear a DOT approved helmet. Off-highway vehicle dealerships sell Youth size helmets. It is not recommended that adult or teen size helmets be used on toddlers as they don't have sufficient neck muscle strength to hold up and wear the helmet a comfortable length of time. Riding without a helmet has a great potential for injury or death.

The following are not legal helmets:

- Bicycle Helmet
- Skateboard Helmet
- Downhill Ski Helmet
- Hockey Helmet

*Continued...*

### OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REGISTRATION

#### Q: How and where do I register an OHV?

A: You must be at least 18 years old to register. Go in person to any deputy registrar office (where automobile license tabs are purchased) or at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. You will be provided a registration card and decal for your off-highway vehicle. You may renew your OHV registration online at [mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv](http://mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv).

#### Q: What information do I need to register an OHV?

A: Need to have the make, model, year, serial number, and sales receipt or bill of sale. For OHM registration, the engine size is required. For ATV registration, along with engine size, the dry weight and width from outside rim to outside rim is required.

#### Q: I purchased at a dealership, how do I apply for registration?

A: ATVs and OHMs purchased from a Minnesota retail dealer must be registered with the DNR, which the dealer manages on behalf of the customer. The dealer will issue a temporary 21-day registration, a registration card, and an expiration decal.

#### Q: What if I sell my OHV?

A: If you sell your OHV, give the new owner a signed bill of sale that includes the serial number of the vehicle along with make and model. The serial number can be found on the registration card.

#### Q: What if I buy a OHM or ATV from another owner?

A: The new owner must report the transfer of ownership within 15 days of the sale at a deputy registrar office or at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. A new owner can be charged with a misdemeanor for failure to file and transfer ownership within 15 days of the sale.

#### Q: Does my ATV need to have registration to operate on frozen waters?

A: Yes, ATV public use registration is needed if it will be driven on public trails, public land, frozen water or the roadway.

#### Q: If my ATV is titled as a Motorcycle or Motor Vehicle in another state, is it considered the same in Minnesota?

A: No, under Minnesota law Chapter 168, All-Terrain Vehicles are not originally manufactured to operate on highways or roads. Under Minnesota traffic law 169.467 subdivision 2 an ATV does not meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

#### Q: I have a Private/Agricultural Use registration on my ATV, now I want to go use it on a state ATV trail. Can I operate on the trail?

A: No, you will need to purchase a Public Use Registration (3 year registration) before operating on state or grant-in-aid ATV trails.

#### Q: What is a Grant-in-Aid Trail?

A: Grant in Aid trails are provided by volunteer clubs and local government sponsors to provide public riding opportunities throughout Minnesota. Funds are collected from Off-highway vehicle registration purchases.

# OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REGISTRATION

## ATV REGISTRATION (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.922)

All-terrain vehicles can be registered as either a Class 1 ATV or a Class 2 ATV (see page 3 for definitions). All ATVs operated in Minnesota must be registered with the DNR, including those used exclusively on private property. See exceptions page 11. Class 1 or Class 2 will be indicated on the owner's ATV registration card and decal.

### Display of numbers and decals for ATVs

ATVs must display the current registration decal along with applicable numbers and letters as indicated below. The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition. A registration plate is not provided by the DNR or Deputy registrar. Owners must provide their own registration plate using the information below.

#### Registration plate must be:

- at least 4 inches high and 7½ inches long;
- clearly visible on the back of the vehicle; and
- at least 12 inches from the ground.

#### Registration letters and numbers must be:

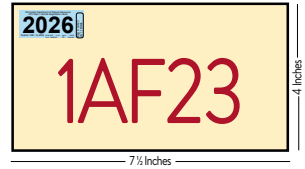
- at least 1½ inches high with a ⅜ inch stroke;
- in English and placed from left to right; and
- in a color that contrasts with the background of the plate.

### What type of registration is needed?

#### Public use

- If you will ride this ATV on public ATV trails, public land, frozen water and roadways.
- The decal must be displayed in the upper left section of the plate. This registration is valid for three years. Registration expires on December 31 of the third year.

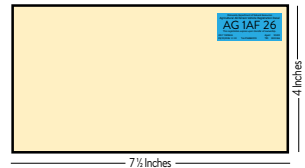
Example of Registration Plate



#### Private/agricultural use

- If you will use your ATV (Class 1 or Class 2) exclusively for private or agricultural activities, harvesting wood, or on private property.
- The decal must be displayed in the upper right section of the plate. This registration does not expire and is valid until the ownership of the ATV is transferred.

Example of Registration Plate



### Both public and private use registration

- The public use decal and private use decal must be displayed in the appropriate section of the plate.
- Public use decal on the upper left and private use in the upper right and a series of letters and number along the bottom.

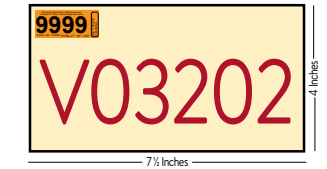
Example of Registration Plate



### Optional – Collector use

- ATVs 25 years and older are exempt from registration if they were originally produced as a separate, identifiable make by a manufacturer. This registration is nontransferable.

Example of Registration Plate



### Exemptions

There are exemptions provided by law. If your answer is “YES” to any of the statements below, registration is not required.

If you are operating an:

- ATV, OHM or ORV registered in another state or country and not in Minnesota for more than 30 consecutive days.
- ATV, OHM or ORV owned by federal, local and tribal governments.
- ATV that is used exclusively in organized track racing events.
- ATV owned by a resident of another state or country that does not require registration of the ATV, not in Minnesota for more than 30 consecutive days, and is operated on state and grant-in-aid trails by a nonresident possessing a nonresident state trail pass.
- ATV that is registered by an Indian tribal government to a tribal member and has not been outside the tribal reservation boundary for more than 30 consecutive days.
- OHM operated by a person participating in an event for which the Minnesota DNR has issued a special use permit exempting the registration or nonresident trail pass requirements.
- OHMs not in Minnesota for more than 30 consecutive days and are operated on state and grant-in-aid trails by a nonresident possessing a nonresident state trail pass.
- OHM or ORV licensed for highway use when operated on forest roads.
- ORV operated on frozen waters or private property (not a designated ORV trail).

### FREE RIDING WEEKEND

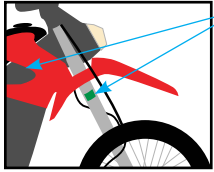
ATV registration and nonresident ATV trail passes will not be required to ride on state and grant-in-aid trails on June 13-14, 2026.



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## OHM REGISTRATION (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.788)

All OHMs operated in Minnesota must be registered with DNR. See page 11 for exemptions. Even when operated on private property, registration is required. This registration is valid for three years.



### OHMs registered only for off-road use

If the motorcycle is not licensed as a motor vehicle, the decal must be attached on the side of the motorcycle and may be attached to the fork tube. The decal must be attached in a manner so that it is visible while a rider is on the motorcycle.



### OHMs licensed in Minnesota for roadway use and registered for off-road use

Display the OHM decal in the upper left corner of the rear regular motorcycle license plate. The DNR registration number should not be displayed.

## DUAL REGISTRATION (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.788 SUBD 12)

An off-highway motorcycle registered under this section may also be registered as a motorcycle under chapter 168 for use on public roads and highways.

If the off-highway motorcycle was not originally constructed primarily for use on public roads and highways, the off-highway motorcycle must be equipped with mirrors and a headlight, taillight, and horn.

See Minnesota chapter 169, the safety standards of the National Traffic and Motor Safety Act, Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, part 571, and the regulations adopted under that federal act, for motorcycles regarding safety and acceptability to operate on public roads and highways.

Contact the Department of Public Safety at 651-201-7000 for further details and application procedures.

## ORV REGISTRATION (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.798)

ORVs are only required to be registered if operated on ORV designated trails or areas on lands administered by the DNR or grant-in-aid ORV trails. Registration is valid for 3 years. Registration is not required if a valid trail pass is displayed.



### ORV registered only for off-road use

If the vehicle is not licensed as a motor vehicle, the owner shall provide a plate not less than four inches high and 7 ½ inches wide. The plate must be attached to the rear of the vehicle at least 12 inches from the ground. The registration sticker must be affixed on the upper left corner of the plate.



## ORVs licensed in Minnesota for roadway use and registered for off-road use

If the vehicle is licensed as a motor vehicle, the registration decal must be affixed on the upper left corner of the rear license plate.

Plates and registration decals must be maintained in a clean and legible condition.

## ORV REGISTRATION-FREE DAY AT THE IRON RANGE OHV STATE RECREATION AREA

On May 16, 2026, the Iron Range Off-highway Vehicle State Recreation Area will not require registration from any ORV riders that visit the site. The ORV registration-free day falls on the third Saturday in May each year.

## Special Operating Permits (MINNESOTA RULE 6102.0030)

Permits not to exceed 30 days may be issued to operators of vehicles from states that do not require registration, when used in connection with an organized group outing, trail ride, race, rally, or other promotional event. The permit must be carried by the vehicle operator.



Continued...

## DEALER AND MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION

Registration is required by OHV dealers and manufacturers to operate OHVs for testing or demonstration purposes. OHV dealerships and manufacturers may make application for registration at local deputy registrar office and directly with the DNR License bureau in St. Paul. Registration plates will be sent out from the license bureau.

The registration certificate documents must be prominently displayed in the place of business.

A dealer or manufacturer may not operate or permit to be operated within this state any vehicle owned by or under the control of a dealer or manufacturer unless a valid registration plate is clearly displayed on the vehicle.

## REGISTRATION FEES

### All-terrain vehicle registration fees - effective 07/01/2017

TYPE OF TRANSACTION	FEE	ISSUING FEE	DURATION
New (unregistered)	\$60	\$8.50	3 calendar years
Renewal only	\$60	\$6	3 calendar years
Transfer only	\$4	\$8.50	
Renewal and transfer	\$64	\$8.50	
Duplicate registration card	\$4	\$6	
Duplicate registration decal only	Free	\$6	
Dealer's registration	\$50	\$8.50	1 year
Dealer's registration renewal	\$50	\$6	1 year
Manufacturer's registration	\$150	\$8.50	1 year
Manufacturer's registration renewal	\$150	\$6	1 year
Nonresident trail pass	\$30	\$1	1 year
Duplicate nonresident trail pass	\$2	50 cents	
New collector ATV	\$6	\$8.50	Nonexpiring
Duplicate collector ATV	\$4	\$6	

### Private/agricultural registration fees - effective 07/01/2017

TYPE OF TRANSACTION	FEE	ISSUING FEE	DURATION
New (unregistered)	\$6	\$8.50	
Duplicate registration card	\$4	\$6	
Duplicate registration decal only	Free	\$6	

### Off-road vehicle registration fees - effective 07/01/2017

TYPE OF TRANSACTION	FEE	ISSUING FEE	DURATION
New (unregistered)	\$30	\$8.50	3 calendar years
Renewal only	\$30	\$6	3 calendar years
30-day resident trail pass	\$20	\$1	30 consecutive days
Transfer only	\$4	\$8.50	
Renewal and transfer	\$34	\$8.50	
Duplicate registration card	\$4	\$6	
Duplicate registration decal only	Free	\$6	
Dealer's registration	\$50	\$8.50	1 year
Dealer's registration renewal	\$50	\$6	1 year
Manufacturer's registration	\$150	\$8.50	1 year
Manufacturer's registration renewal	\$150	\$6	1 year
One-year nonresident trail pass	\$20	\$1	1 year
Three-year nonresident trail pass	\$30	\$1	3 years
Duplicate nonresident trail pass	\$2	50 cents	

### Off-highway motorcycle registration fees - effective 07/01/2024

TYPE OF TRANSACTION	FEE	ISSUING FEE	DURATION
New (unregistered)	\$45	\$8.50	3 calendar years
Renewal only	\$45	\$6	3 calendar years
Transfer only	\$4	\$8.50	
Renewal and transfer	\$49	\$8.50	
Duplicate registration card	\$4	\$6	
Duplicate registration decal only	Free	\$6	
Dealer's registration	\$50	\$8.50	1 year
Dealer's registration renewal	\$50	\$6	1 year
Manufacturer's registration	\$150	\$8.50	1 year
Manufacturer's registration renewal	\$150	\$6	1 year
One-year nonresident trail pass	\$20	\$1	1 year

## REPLACEMENT REGISTRATION CARDS AND DECALS

You may obtain a ATV and OHM replacement registration card for \$10.00 or a replacement decal for \$6.00 from the DNR License Center or a deputy registrar office (where automobile license tabs are purchased). Replacement decals and numbers must be affixed in the same manner as the original. You are not required to carry the registration card, but when a law enforcement officer requests to see it, it must be provided within a reasonable time period.

## ATV SAFETY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

These requirements are for residents and nonresidents.

An individual who was born after July 1, 1987, and who is 12 years of age or older, must successfully complete the independent study course component of all-terrain vehicle safety training before operating an all-terrain vehicle on public lands or waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails.

Exception: A person at least 10 years of age but under 12 years of age may operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine capacity up to 110cc if the vehicle is a Class 1 all-terrain vehicle with straddle-style seating or up to 170cc if the vehicle is a Class 1 all-terrain vehicle with side-by-side seating on public lands or waters if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The Minnesota DNR ATV Safety class includes information on: basic operation, common parts and controls, operating safely and responsibly, trail riding, laws, riding skills, and protecting the environment.



### Ages 10 to 15

Youth will complete the two-step process to ATV Safety Certification:

1. Complete the ATV safety online training course.
2. Attend a hands-on ATV course.

Online training course: [atvcourse.com](http://atvcourse.com) Fee: \$29.95

Hands-on ATV course: Find a schedule of hands-on courses at [mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/atv](http://mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/atv). Go to Education and Safety tab, and then under recreational vehicle safety classes, click on ATV Safety to find the hands-on ATV course calendar.

- Additional fees may apply when attending the hands-on ATV course.
- Student is required to fit their ATV in order to participate in the ATV course. See page 21.
- Contact the lead ATV instructor for additional information.

### Ages 16 and older (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.925 SUBD. 5)

Anyone who is 16 years or older must successfully complete the online ATV Safety Training before operating an ATV on public lands, frozen waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails. Ages 16 and older are not required to attend the hands-on ATV course.

### Alternate ATV safety training certification (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.925 SUBD. 3B)

Proof of completion of the ATV RiderCourse offered by the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute is adequate to meet the safety certificate requirements.

The commissioner may enter into reciprocity agreements or certify ATV Safety from other states that are substantially similar to in-state courses.

## ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) OPERATION

### Safety first—helmets (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.9256 SUBD 2A)

A person less than 18 years of age shall not ride as a passenger or as an operator of an all-terrain vehicle on public land, public waters, or on a public road right-of-way unless wearing a safety helmet approved by the commissioner of public safety. See page 3 for the definition of an Approved Helmet.

### \*NEW—Seat belt requirement with Class 2 ATV (MINNESOTA STATUTE 169.686 SUBD 1A)

A seat belt, including both the shoulder and lap belt when the vehicle is so equipped, must be worn by the operator and passengers of a class 2 all-terrain vehicle, when operated on or within the right-of-way of a public road when the all-terrain vehicle is factory-equipped with seat belts.

See page 20 for Public Road Right-of-way information.

### A person may not drive or operate an all-terrain vehicle (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.928 SUBD 2):



- at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under the surrounding circumstances;
- in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger or to cause injury or damage to the person or property of another;
- without headlight and taillight lighted at all times if the vehicle is equipped with headlight and taillight, if not equipped, may not operate in hours of darkness or reduced visibility;
- without a functioning stoplight if so equipped;
- without a brake operational by either hand or foot;
- with more than one person on the vehicle, see Passenger sections under Class 1 and Class 2 ATV;
- at a speed exceeding 10-miles per hour on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person not on an all-terrain vehicle or within 100 feet of a fishing shelter;
- across a bridge that is part of the traveled lanes of an interstate highway; or
- on grant-in-aid snowmobile and non-motorized trails closed to ATVs unless specifically allowed;
- between 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, except on the right-hand side of the right-of-way and in the same direction as the highway traffic.

## CLASS 1 ATV OPERATIONS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.9256 SUBD 3)

The owner or adult in control of an ATV is legally responsible to ensure it is operated according to the following requirements.



### Under age 10

- May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.

### Ages 10 and 11

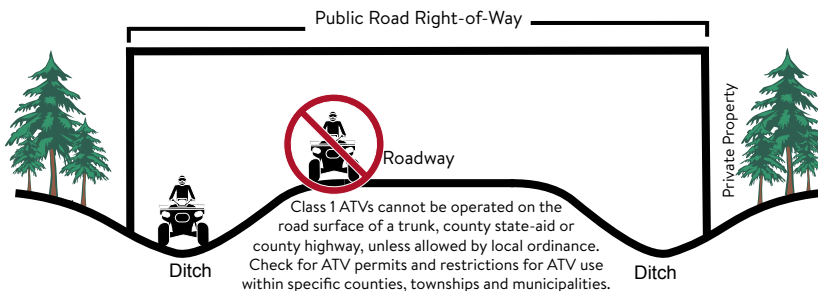
- May operate only on private property with permission of the owner, except an ATV with a straddle seat up to 110cc or up to 170cc with side-by-side seating on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

### Ages 12 to 15

- Must have permission from their parent or guardian to operate an ATV.
- May not operate an ATV on public lands or water, or on state or grant-in-aid trails, if the person cannot properly reach and control the handlebars and reach the foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat.
- May make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway or operate on public lands and waters or state or grant-in-aid trails, only if that person possesses a valid all-terrain vehicle safety certificate issued by the commissioner and is accompanied on another ATV by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.
- May operate on the bank, slope, ditch of a public road right-of-way or roadway open by local ordinance with a valid ATV Safety Certificate when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on a separate ATV.

### Ages 16 and 17

- Must have a valid driver's license and ATV Safety Certificate to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way or roadway open by local ordinance.



A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle at any time within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway within this state. Operation on the surface of a Trunk Highway (a.k.a state highway) is not permitted.

For additional information for operation on roads and rights-of-way, see [www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928)

Continued...

## Passengers on a Class 1 ATV (MN STATUTE 84.9257 PASSENGERS)

- A person 12 to 17 years of age may operate a Class 1 all-terrain vehicle carrying only one passenger and the passenger must be the person's parent or legal guardian.
- A person 18 years of age or older may operate a Class 1 all-terrain vehicle carrying only one passenger.

### A person with a valid driver's license may operate a Class 1 ATV:

- In the ditch or the outside bank or slope of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway unless prohibited under local road authority.
- Registered for private use and being used for agricultural purposes on a public right-of-way of a trunk or county highway, if the ATV is on the extreme right side of the road. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.
- On the far right side of a township road, unless prohibited by local regulations.
- On a bridge, a roadway shoulder, or the inside bank of a public road right-of-way if necessary to avoid obstructions to travel or environmentally sensitive areas. You must remain in the farthest right lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge, obstacle, or area, and make the crossing without delay.

### Class 1 ATV with steering wheel

A person may operate a Class 1 all-terrain vehicle designed by the manufacturer for off-road use to be driven by a steering wheel and equipped with operator and passenger seat belts and a roll-over protective structure within the public road right-of-way of a county state-aid or county highway on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road and left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions, unless prohibited by local ordinance.

## CLASS 2 ATV OPERATIONS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.928)

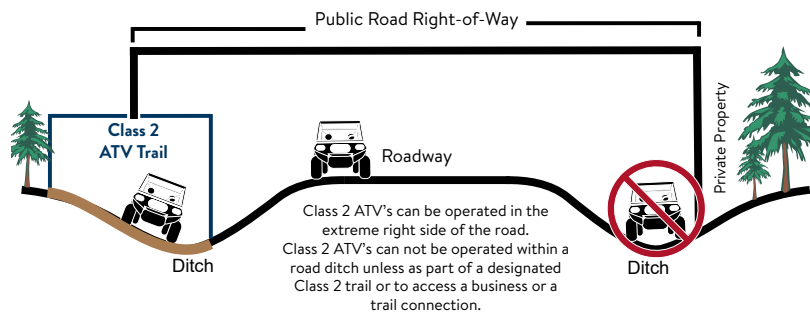
In addition to the information found on page 17 and 18, a class 2 all-terrain vehicle may be operated:



- within the public road right-of-way of a county state-aid or county highway on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road and left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions;
- on the bank, slope, or ditch of a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway but only to access businesses or make trail connections, and left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions;
- on the bank or ditch of a public road right-of-way on a designated class 2 all-terrain vehicle trail.

A road authority as defined under Minnesota statute 160.02, subdivision 25, may after a public hearing restrict the use of all-terrain vehicles in the public road right-of-way under its jurisdiction.

Continued...



### Youth under age 15 (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.9256 SUBD.1 (G))

- A person under 15 years of age shall not operate a class 2 all-terrain vehicle.

### Ages 16 to 17

- Must have a valid driver's license and a ATV safety certificate to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way.
- Must wear a DOT rated helmet and seat belt (if equipped).

### A person with a valid drivers license may operate a Class 2 ATV:

- on frozen lake surfaces;
- on state forest roads; or
- within the public road right-of-way of a county state-aid or county highway on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road and left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions, unless prohibited by the road authority or other local laws.

### Passengers on Class 2 ATVs (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.9257 PASSENGERS)

A person 18 years of age or older may operate a Class 2 all-terrain vehicle while carrying only one passenger, or up to the number of passengers for which the vehicle was designed, whichever is greater.

Note: Passengers must occupy the designated seating area that was installed by the original manufacturer.

### SPECIAL VEHICLE USE ON ROADWAY (MINNESOTA STATUTE 169.045)

The governing body of any county, home rule charter or statutory city, or town may by ordinance authorize the operation of motorized golf carts, all-terrain vehicles, utility task vehicles, or mini trucks, on designated roadways or portions thereof under its jurisdiction.

See the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes website for the full text of law.

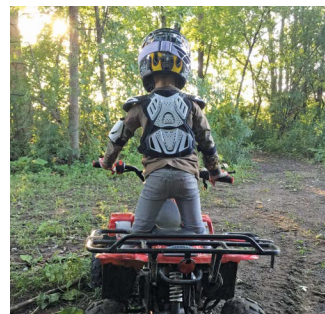
A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle at any time within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway within this state. Operation on the surface of a Trunk Highway (a.k.a state highway) is not permitted.

For additional information for operation on roads and rights-of-way, see [www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928)

### ATVS—YOUTH MUST FIT TO RIDE (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.9256)

To operate an ATV on public lands or frozen waters, or on state or grant-in-aid trails, operators under age 16 must:

- Be able to properly reach and control the handlebars and reach the foot pegs while sitting upright on an ATV with straddle-style seating.
- Be able to properly reach the steering wheel and foot controls of a Class 1 ATV with side-by-side seating while sitting upright with the seat belt fully engaged.



**Seat clearance:** There should be a minimum of 3 inches between operator and the ATV seat. Proper clearance enables the operator to maintain balance on the foot rests when riding over rough terrain. Maintaining balance prevents the operator from falling off or being thrown from the machine.



**Upper legs:** While seated, the operator's upper legs should be horizontal (parallel to the ground).

**Arm length:** While seated on the machine and gripping the handle bar, there should be a distinct bend in the arm at the elbow. Without it, there will not be sufficient reach to properly grip the handlebars when turning and riding.

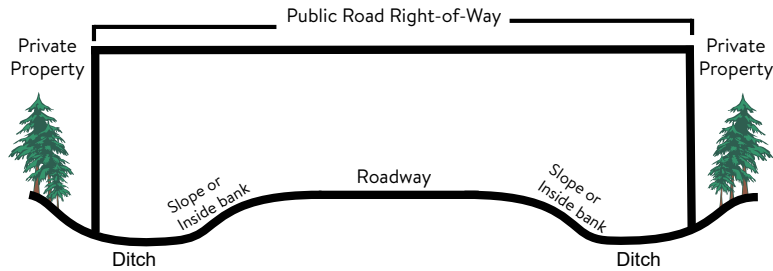


**Hand size:** With the hand gripping the handle bar, extend the fingers to the brake lever. The first joint of the index finger should extend beyond the brake lever. If it doesn't, then the hand is too small to safely operate the brake. Also, check to see that the arm length is sufficient to properly operate the brake lever and throttle while the handlebars are turned to the far left and right.

# OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

## PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Public road right-of-way means the entire right-of-way of a roadway that is not privately owned, including the traveled portions, banks, slopes, ditches, shoulders, and medians.



OHV riding may be permitted on grant-in-aid trails that include portions of the public road right-of-way when posted with signs for that vehicle type.

### Explanation on Highways

#### County State Aid Highway:

A highway that is maintained by the county road authority which receives state funds for maintenance and development. The highway may be constructed with an aggregate material or asphalt surface. A county ordinance may regulate off-highway vehicle operation.

#### Trunk Highway:

A trunk system is a network of interstates and state highways that connects communities throughout Minnesota. The highway may be constructed with an asphalt or concrete surface. All-Terrain Vehicle operation is restricted - see graphics on page 18 and 20 for road surface use summary.

### Crossing a public road right-of-way with an ATV

An all-terrain vehicle may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way provided:

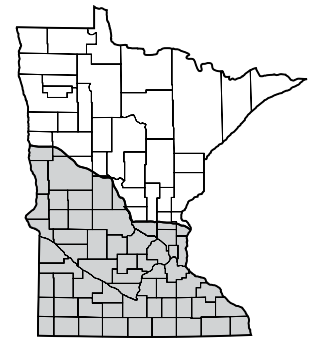
- the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the road and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- the vehicle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main-traveled way of the road;
- the driver yields the right-of-way to all on-coming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard;
- in crossing a divided road, the crossing is made only at an intersection of the road with another public road; and
- if the crossing is made between the hours of ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.

## AGRICULTURAL ZONE RESTRICTION

A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle within the public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway from April 1 to August 1 in the agricultural zone unless the vehicle is being used exclusively as transportation to and from work on agricultural lands.

The Minnesota agricultural zone is the area lying south and west of a line formed by the following highway rights-of-way: starting at the North Dakota border, the line goes east along U.S. Highway 10 to State Highway 23, then follows Highway 23 east to State Highway 95 to the Wisconsin border. The agricultural zone does not include the rights-of-way of these boundary highways, and applies only to Class 1 ATV use.

Agricultural Zone Map



For additional information on Ag Zone use see subdivision 1 (g) under [www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.928)

## OPERATION RESTRICTIONS

### You may not operate off-highway vehicles:

- in a careless, reckless or negligent manner that endangers another person or property;
- on restricted areas within public lands that are posted or where gates or other clearly visible structures are placed to prevent unauthorized motorized vehicle access;
- on the median of a four-lane highway;
- within the right-of-way of any interstate highway or freeway;
- on the right-of-way between opposing lanes of traffic;
- on grant-in-aid snowmobile trails;
- on designated non-motorized trails;
- at airports;
- on any frozen public waters where you don't have legal access or where it is prohibited;
- in any area restricted by local ordinances;
- in a tree nursery or planting area;
- on state forest lands that are posted or designated "closed" to motorized uses;
- on agricultural land without permission; or
- in most state parks, state recreation areas, state historic sites, wildlife management areas (WMAs), state scientific and natural areas (SNAs) with the exception of posted trails and areas. Exception: OHVs that are licensed highway motor vehicles may be operated on established roads at speeds up to 20 miles per hour in the following WMAs: Carlos Avery, Hubbel Pond, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, Roseau River, and Thief Lake.

## OTHER PROHIBITIONS

### You may not:

- litter;
- enter or leave lands by cutting wire or tearing down a fence;
- mutilate, destroy, damage or remove any property within a trail or on state land; or
- post, damage or remove any signs on any lands or waters unless you are the landowner, occupant or lessee of the property.

## OHVS AND WETLAND DISTURBANCE

### You may not operate an OHV in a manner to:

- Carelessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland.
- Impact a wetland in excess of minimum amounts established by law.
- Ride below the ordinary high-water level of an unfrozen public waters that are lakes, streams, rivers and public water wetlands or calcareous fens.
- There are increased penalties for OHV wetland disturbance. Conviction may be a Gross Misdemeanor and the OHV (ATV, OHM and ORV) may be forfeited.
- Wetland restrictions apply both to private land as well as public land. Wetland regulations vary by the area of the state and other criteria.

If uncertain an area is a wetland, please contact the areas County Soil and Water Conservation District or local zoning office. For additional Wetland definitions, see MN Statute 103g.005 and 103g.223

In addition to the training requirements listed here, operating privileges are automatically suspended for one year for:

- Conviction for carelessly and recklessly upsetting the natural and ecological balance of a wetland (gross misdemeanor violation).
- Operation on unfrozen public water, or in a state park, SNA, or WMA.
- Willful, wanton or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property.
- Carelessly upsetting the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland.

## WHEN TRAIL RIDING

- Obey all trail signs.



Directional Marker Sign



Intersection Ahead Sign



Stop Sign



Caution Sign

- Orange trail markers are snowmobile routes and may not permit operation of other OHVs.

*Continued...*

- All designated trails are two-way unless posted otherwise. One-way trails must be traveled in the direction indicated.
- Stay to the right when meeting or being passed by another trail user.
- You must pass on the left half of the tread-way and only when the trail is free from on-coming traffic to safely pass the other trail user.
- Yield to non-motorized trail users and shut off your engine when meeting a horse until the horse has passed or until waved on.
- When entering or crossing a trail you must yield to trail traffic. When two trail users are about to enter an unmarked tread-way intersection from different directions, the trail user to the right has the right-of-way.

## CAN I RIDE AN OHV IN THE METRO AREA?

### In the seven-county metro area

For the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, you may ride on:

- Your own land.
- Land posted with signs specifically permitting the use of OHVs.

You may not ride OHVs on land you do not own unless given written or verbal permission by the owner, occupant or lessee.

Operating OHVs on public lands may be restricted, check with land manager.



Minnesota statute 84.90  
Subd 2 and Subd 3

### Outside of the seven-county metro area

No person shall enter on any land not owned by the person for the purpose of operating a recreational motor vehicle after being notified, either orally or by written or posted notice, by the owner, occupant, or lessee not to do so.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS OR ORDINANCES

A county, city or town may by ordinance allow operation of an all-terrain vehicle on a public road or street under its jurisdiction to access businesses and residences and to make trail connections. Check with the appropriate unit of government for additional regulations or restrictions.

Unless otherwise prohibited, a county board by ordinance may allow the operation of all-terrain vehicles on the road right-of-way shoulder, or inside bank or slope of a county highway or county state-aid highway, if:

- 1) the highway is in the agricultural zone; or
- 2) safe operation in the ditch or outside slope is impossible, and the county posts the appropriate notice.

# OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES (OHM)

## OHM SAFETY TRAINING REQUIREMENT

### Ages 6 to 15

A person six years or older but less than 16 years of age operating an off-highway motorcycle on public lands or waters must possess a valid off-highway motorcycle safety certificate issued by the commissioner.

The Minnesota DNR OHM Safety course includes information on: basic operation, common parts and controls, operating safely and responsibly, trail riding, rules and laws, riding skills and protecting the environment.

Website: [atvcourse.com/usa/minnesota](http://atvcourse.com/usa/minnesota)

After completing all the online course requirements, you will be able to print a certificate of completion. To obtain your permanent safety certificate, mail the certificate of completion along with a \$5.00 (check/money order) fee written out to the "Minnesota DNR." Mail to DNR Safety Training and Education, Camp Ripley, 15011 HWY 115, Little Falls, MN 56345. To contact the Safety Training office, see page 39.

Alternate OHM safety training: [msf-usa.org/start-your-ride/dirtbike-school/](http://msf-usa.org/start-your-ride/dirtbike-school/)

Dirt Bike School is a fun, one-day, hands-on training session available to anyone six years old or above. At approved training sites, MSF certified DBS Coaches will teach you basic riding skills and responsible riding practices, including risk management and environmental awareness.

## OHM YOUTH OPERATORS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.793)

### Helmets

Operators under age 18 are required to wear a helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters, and road rights-of-way. See page 3 for the definition of an approved helmet.

### Under age 12

- Must wear eye protection and an approved DOT rated helmet.
- Must have in possession a valid OHM safety certificate when operating on public lands and frozen waters.
- May not make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way.
- May not operate OHM on a public road or public road right-of-way.
- May not operate OHM on public lands or frozen public waters unless accompanied by a person age 18 or older who holds a valid driver's license. Exception: an operator participating in a DNR permitted event is not required to be accompanied by an adult.



### Under age 16

- Must wear eye protection and an approved DOT rated helmet.
- Must have in possession a valid OHM safety certificate when operating on public lands, frozen waters, and public road rights-of-way.
- May make a direct crossing of a public road (except an interstate highway) if accompanied by a person age 18 or older with a valid driver's license.

### Ages 16 and 17

- Must wear eye protection and an approved DOT rated helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters, and public road rights-of-way.
- Must have a valid driver's license to operate an OHM on a public roadway, and the motorcycle must be licensed for highway use. (A driver's license is not required on designated trails when the trail specifically includes the road right-of-way).

## NONRESIDENT YOUTH OHM OPERATORS

Nonresidents under age 16 may operate an OHM on public lands or frozen waters if they have in possession proof of completing an OHM safety course offered by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Dirt bike School, or another state and are accompanied by a person age 18 or older who has a valid driver's license.

## OHM GENERAL OPERATIONS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.795)

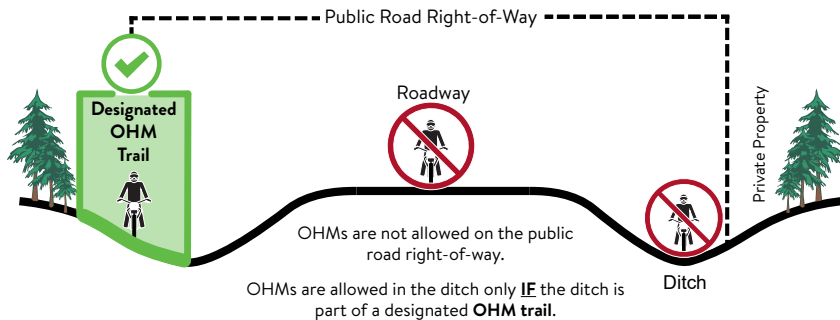
- You may not operate an OHM in ditches, unless it is a trail designated for OHM use.
- OHMs registered for highway use may operate on roadways.
- A valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including crossing roads. The only exception would be on portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.
- Your OHM must have a headlight, taillight and brakes to be operated on a public road. The lights must be on while operating on a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway; or when crossing a public road right-of-way, ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise; or in conditions of reduced visibility.
- You must wear eye protection when operating an OHM.
- You may not exceed 10 mph on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person fishing or a fish house or other shelter.
- Sound levels for OHMs manufactured after 1986 may not exceed 96 decibels when operated on public lands.

Continued...

## CROSSING PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

A person operating an off-highway motorcycle may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way provided:

- the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees;
- the off-highway motorcycle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main-traveled way of the road;
- the driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard;
- in crossing a divided road, the crossing is made only at an intersection of the road with another public road; and
- if the crossing is made between the hours of ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.



## THINGS TO KNOW

### Reporting stolen, abandoned or destroyed vehicles

A registered off-highway vehicle that is abandoned, stolen or destroyed must be reported to the DNR License Center within 15 days. There is no fee.

### Accident reports

A recreational accident report must be submitted to the DNR within 10 days. An OHV accident resulting in injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization to or death of a person; or total damage of \$300 or more for ORVs, \$500 or more for ATVs and OHMs.

### Odometer tampering

It is unlawful to knowingly tamper with an OHV odometer with the intent to defraud by reflecting a lower mileage than the true mileage, the same as other motor vehicles. For additional information on OHV odometer tampering, see Minnesota Statute 325E.14

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES (ORV)

### ORV EDUCATION AND SAFETY TRAINING

#### Age 16 and older (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.8015)



An ORV environmental and safety training course is available for persons age 16 or older. The course, available on a flash drive, covers ORV familiarization, operating procedures, law, towing procedures, ethics, safety hazards, and environmental considerations. It is not required by law to take the course, but it is highly recommended. The cost is \$15.00. To contact the Safety Training office, see page 39.

### ORV YOUTH OPERATORS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.802)

#### Under age 16

A person under 16 years of age may not operate an ORV. The owner of an ORV may not allow it to be operated by a person under age 16.

### ORV GENERAL OPERATIONS (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.804)

- All ORV passengers and operators must wear seat belts.
- A valid driver's license is required to cross roads. The only exception is portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.
- ORVs are required to have lights on while crossing public roads ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, and during periods of reduced visibility.
- You may operate on state forest roads, trails and lands as described on page 34. You may not operate an ORV within the right-of-way of an interstate highway, or within a public road right-of-way, except on a designated trail.



## TRAIL PASSES

### \*NEW—ORV TRAIL PASS

A person may not operate an off-road vehicle on a state or grant-in-aid off-road vehicle trail or use area unless the vehicle displays an off-road vehicle state trail pass issued according to this section. The pass must be available to be viewed by a peace officer, a conservation officer, or an employee designated under section 84.0835.

### RESIDENT

Trail pass for resident is valid for 30 days. Not required if registered as an ORV.

### NONRESIDENT

A nonresident operating an ATV, OHM, or ORV on state and grant-in-aid trails is required to have a nonresident trail pass, unless specified below:

- The pass is not required if the nonresident operator is driving an ATV that is registered in Minnesota.
- Nonresidents do not need a pass if operating on a portion of an ATV, OHM or ORV trail that is owned by the person or the person's spouse, child, or parent, or if the ATV, OHM or ORV is registered in Minnesota.

### Trail Pass need to know (examples not to scale):

- The ATV or OHM trail pass must be available for inspection when requested by a law enforcement officer.
- Duplicate nonresident ATV, OHM and ORV trail passes are available.



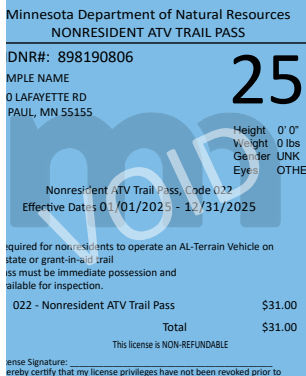
Resident ORV Trail Pass



Nonresident OHM Trail Pass



Nonresident ORV Trail Pass



Nonresident ATV Trail Pass

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

The following are required for all off-highway vehicles operated on public lands, waters, trails, and public streets and roads open to vehicle use.

### Brakes

Brakes must control movement and stop and hold the vehicle.

### Throttle

Throttle must return the engine to idle when pressure to advance the throttle is removed.

### Mufflers

- No person shall operate a vehicle unless it is equipped with a muffler having a spark arrestor approved by the United States Forest Service. Minnesota Rule 6102.0040 subpart 4 A.
- Overall noise emission from ATVs and ORVs may not exceed 99 decibels at a distance of 20 inches.
- OHMs that are not competition cycles, and were manufactured in or after 1986, may not exceed noise emissions of 96 decibels at a distance of 20 inches.
- Mufflers may not be altered to increase motor noise, or have a cutout, bypass, or similar device except if used at organized events.

### Towing (MINNESOTA RULE 6102.0040 SUBPART 2)

- A straight-arm bar must be used to tow a trailer or other device containing passengers.
- A disabled vehicle being towed may contain a person to steer.
- At least 16 square inches of reflective material that is unobstructed and visible must be mounted on each side and at the rear of a trailer or other device.
- Recommend passengers wear approved DOT helmets for their safety.

### Lights (MINNESOTA RULE 6102.0040 SUBPART 1A)

- When operating during hours of darkness or reduced visibility, a vehicle must have at least one headlamp in operation, having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead under normal atmospheric conditions. The headlamp must be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of oncoming vehicle operators.
- If not equipped, may not operate in hours of darkness or reduced visibility.

## ENFORCEMENT

Conservation officers, deputy sheriffs, police officers, and state troopers all enforce off-highway vehicle rules. You must stop when signaled by a law enforcement officer.

### Penalties

- Fleeing a law enforcement officer on an OHV is a felony and the OHV used may be forfeited.
- An off-highway vehicle violation can be a petty misdemeanor or a misdemeanor; It depends on severity of the violation.
- Most operation, registration and trespass violations also can be enforced by issuing a civil citation and can include restitution.

### Operating while impaired (MINNESOTA STATUTES 84.765)

Operating any motor vehicle (including off-highway vehicles) while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other hazardous substance is unlawful.

Operators who are impaired may be required to submit to tests by a law enforcement officer. Refusal to submit to the test is a crime and the person's ATV, snowmobile, and motorboat operating privileges will be suspended during the same time period as their driver's license privileges.

Persons who test .08 or more—regardless of what vehicle type they are operating—will lose their ATV, snowmobile, and motorboat operating privileges for the same duration as their driver's license privilege. The suspension applies regardless of location of operation (ie. Private property, trails, public roads, public lands or frozen waters).

Off-highway vehicle DWI convictions and refusals are recorded on the violator's driver's license record and may affect their driver's license privileges.

An operator, who is found to be impaired or has an alcohol concentration of .08 or more, can be charged with a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony level DWI.

Persons convicted of a DWI may be subject to one or more of the following: Fines; jail time; loss of OHV ATV, snowmobile, and motorboat operating privileges; forfeiture of the OHV; loss of motor vehicle driver's license privileges and motor vehicle plate impoundment.

The underage not-a-drop provisions in the DWI laws apply to ATVs and other off-road recreational vehicles, including loss of driver's license and OHV and motorboat operating privileges.

### Open bottle law (MINNESOTA STATUTE 169A.35)

It is unlawful for a person to drink, consume, or possess an open alcoholic beverage when an OHV is operated on a road or within the road right of way (except on designated trail).

### Ignition Interlock (MINNESOTA STATUTE 171.36)

If the person operating or in physical control of an off-road recreational vehicle is a program participant in the ignition interlock device program, the off-road recreational vehicle may be operated only if it is equipped with an approved ignition interlock device (Includes ATV, ORV, OHM, Snowmobile and motorboats).

### Trespass (MINNESOTA STATUTE 97B.001)

Agricultural land is broadly defined. You must have permission to ride on legally posted land or agricultural land. All planted grassland, hay land and short-rotation woody cropland also meet the definition of agricultural land. These lands do not need to be posted. Entering without permission is trespassing.

Further information on trespass laws can be found in the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook at [mndnr.gov/regulations](http://mndnr.gov/regulations).

You may not: wound or kill another person's domestic animal; destroy private property; pass through a closed gate without returning it to the original position; travel off a marked OHV grant in aid and state marked trails.

### Violator training and suspension (MINNESOTA STATUTE 84.925 SUBDIVISION 5)

An individual who is convicted of violating a law related to the operation of an ATV must successfully complete the ATV safety online training course before continuing operation of an ATV.

An individual who is convicted for a second or subsequent excess speed, trespass, or wetland violation in an all-terrain vehicle season, or any conviction for careless or reckless operation of an ATV, must successfully complete the ATV safety online training course and the testing and operating course components of ATV safety training before continuing operation of an ATV.

An individual who receives three or more citations and convictions for violating a law related to the operation of an ATV in a two-year period must successfully complete the ATV safety online training course and the testing and operating course components of all-terrain vehicle safety training before continuing operation of an ATV.



### DNR ENFORCEMENT SAFETY MESSAGE

Slow down! ATV's are not designed to be driven at high speeds. Many of the fatality 's involving ATV's are the result of driving too fast. Slowing down reduces the possibility of the driver losing control and the ATV rolling over or striking a fixed object.

*Continued...*

# PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAILS

## STATE FOREST LANDS (MINNESOTA RULE 6100.1950)

Minnesota state forests have been classified into three groupings for off-highway and motor vehicle use: managed, limited and closed. For a complete listing of state forest classifications see page 37. You can ride your OHV on state forest roads and trails in accordance with state forest motor vehicle use classifications and regulations.

- In managed state forests north of U.S. Highway 2, OHVs may operate on mapped trails and other existing routes that are not gated or posted “closed.”
- In both managed and limited state forests, forest roads are open to OHV use unless posted “closed.”
- In limited state forests, OHV operation is allowed only on signed and mapped routes that are open for that type of OHV use. For example, trails can be designated for ATV, OHM, and/or ORV use.

## Seasonal or temporary road and trail closures

Closures may take place at any time due to trail repairs, spring thaw, after heavy rains, logging operations, or other natural resource protection or public safety concerns. Check trail status at [mndnr.gov/ohv](http://mndnr.gov/ohv). Closures updated every Thursday after 2 pm.

### Examples of a temporary road or trail closure signs:



## Events on state forest lands (MINNESOTA RULE 6100.3400)

The DNR may provide temporary exceptions to the general rules for a specific state park, forest campground, forest day-use area, or state forest lands for emergencies or authorized special events. Notice of the exception will be plainly posted at the site. To hold a special event on state forest lands, a permit is required. Contact the Minnesota DNR Information Center.

Continued...

## Where you can ride:



**In a managed forest** on all state forest roads, trails and nondesignated routes unless posted “closed.”



**In a limited forest** on forest roads and on trails designated and signed to permit specific motor vehicle use and on trails specifically designated and signed for a vehicle type. For example, trails can be designated for ATV, OHM, and/or ORV use.



**In a closed forest** on frozen public waters.

## You may not ride:

- In a state forest classified as “closed.”
- Within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as “closed.”
- On designated non-motorized trails unless also posted open for a specific motorized use.
- Off of routes, roads and designated trails except when hunter/trapper exception applies. (See the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* at [mndnr.gov/regulations](http://mndnr.gov/regulations) for more information).
- On forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting or that damages or destroys trees or growing crops (the rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails).
- On or over lakes, rivers or streams except:
  - › when the water body is ice-covered, or
  - › at a bridge, culvert or designated low-water crossing.
- During deer hunting season, you may not ride on state forest trails in areas of the state where deer may be taken by rifle, unless you possess a deer hunting license. State forest roads remain open.

## Off-road or off-trail travel (MINNESOTA RULE 6100.1950)

Traveling off roads and trails is prohibited on state lands. See *Minnesota’s Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* at [mndnr.gov/regulations](http://mndnr.gov/regulations) for more information.

Continued...

## Big game hunting/trapping exceptions

Persons with a valid hunting, trapping, or commercial license in possession may travel off-road and off-trail on Class 1 ATVs to:

- retrieve big game (September to December);
- hunt for big game and construct stands (October to December);
- trap during the open season for protected furbearers; or
- trap for minnows under certain conditions.

Persons with a valid hunting, trapping or commercial license in possession may use Class 2 ATVs, ORVs and highway-licensed vehicles (HLVs) to travel on:

- forest trails designated for ORV use; or
- a route not designated for other uses or posted “closed” in managed forests. See *Minnesota’s Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* at [mndnr.gov/regulations](http://mndnr.gov/regulations) for more information.

## OHV riding restrictions during deer hunting season

OHV trails on state forest lands are closed to off-highway vehicle riding (ATV and OHM) during firearms deer season where deer may be taken by rifle in Hunting Zone A, Series 100 and portions of Series 200. See the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* at [mndnr.gov/regulations](http://mndnr.gov/regulations) for dates and zones annually. Persons possessing a valid deer license may use an ATV in these areas only:

- before legal shooting hours (½ hour before sunrise).
- from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- after legal shooting hours (½ hour after sunset).

Forest roads remain open to OHV use.

## Areas with limitations

The big game hunter/trapper exceptions do not apply in areas signed and mapped as “No Motorized Travel.” It also does not apply within the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

## Other restrictions and prohibitions under Minnesota Rule 6100.1950 Subpart 7

- Unauthorized trail construction is not allowed on state forest lands.
- Motor vehicles must be operated in a manner that does not cause damage to the road, land or other natural resources. Motor vehicle use causing erosion, rutting or damage to trees is prohibited.
- In Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest, motor vehicles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted “closed” and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use.

## State forest classifications

Some state forests have more than one motor vehicle use classification and are listed below more than once.

### Managed state forests

Beltrami Island  
Big Fork  
Blackduck  
Cloquet Valley (portions)  
Finland (portions)  
George Washington (portions)  
Grand Portage (portions)  
Kabetogama

Koochiching  
Lake of the Woods  
Lost River  
Northwest Angle  
Pine Island  
Red Lake  
Smokey Bear  
Sturgeon River (portions)

### Limited state forests

Badoura  
Bear Island  
Bowstring  
Buena Vista (portions)  
Burntside (portions)  
Centennial  
Chengwatana  
Cloquet Valley (portions)  
Crow Wing  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Emily  
Finland (portions)  
Fond Du Lac  
Foothills  
General C.C. Andrews  
George Washington (portions)  
Golden Anniversary  
Grand Portage (portions)  
Hill River  
Huntersville

Lake Jeanette (portions)  
Land O’ Lakes  
Lyons  
Mississippi Headwaters  
Nemadji  
Pat Bayle  
Paul Bunyan  
Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood  
Remer  
Rum River  
St. Croix  
Savanna  
Smoky Hills  
Snake River (portions)  
Solana  
Sturgeon River (portions)  
Two Inlets  
Wealthwood  
White Earth  
Waukenabo

### Closed state forests

Battleground  
Birch Lakes  
Buena Vista (portions)  
Burntside (portions)  
Cloquet Valley (portions)  
Finland (portions)  
George Washington (portions)  
Insula Lake

Lake Isabella  
Lake Jeanette (portions)  
Pillsbury  
Sand Dunes  
Snake River (portions)  
Sturgeon River (portions)  
Welsh Lake  
Whiteface River

Continued...

## NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

The U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulate motor vehicle use on federal lands. Check with the managing agency before riding on these lands.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is the legal guide for motor vehicle use on the national forests. The MVUM is updated annually and available at no charge at the forest supervisor or ranger district offices.

You may ride an OHV and highway-licensed vehicles (HLV) on national forest roads or trails designated open to these uses on the MVUM map.

You may not ride on national forest roads that are signed, gated, bermed with dirt, rocks, trees, etc., or not designated “Open” on the MVUM map.

### For information about national forests, contact:

Chippewa National Forest  
218-335-8600  
[www.fs.usda.gov/chippewa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chippewa)

Superior National Forest  
218-626-4300  
[www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior)

## COUNTY FOREST LANDS AND TRAILS

Counties may have adopted different off-highway vehicle regulations, which includes county administered land within state forest boundaries. For information on regulations, roads and trails on county land, please contact that county directly.

### GeoPDF MAPS FOR YOUR DEVICE

Don't get lost in the woods, navigate large remote areas using DNR Geospatial PDFs “GeoPDFs” on your mobile device. Display your current location like Google Maps™, but you don't have to be connected to the internet or have cell service while using the maps.

[mndnr.gov/mobile/geopdf/index.html](http://mndnr.gov/mobile/geopdf/index.html)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Where to ride

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Information Center  
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR

[mndnr.gov/ohv](http://mndnr.gov/ohv)

### Safety training

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Safety Training Program—Camp Ripley  
15011 HWY 115, Little Falls, MN 56345  
800-366-8917

[mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle](http://mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle)

For information about safety training classes, call the DNR Safety Training Program at 800-366-8917 or at 800-366-8917 or email [enforcement.education@state.mn.us](mailto:enforcement.education@state.mn.us).

### Off-highway vehicle registration

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—License Center  
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4026  
651-296-2316 or 800-285-2000

[mndnr.gov/rlp](http://mndnr.gov/rlp)

## REGULATING OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES IN CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS

See the League of Minnesota Cities website ([lmc.org](http://lmc.org)) and in the search box, type in keywords “Special Vehicles”.

The League of Minnesota Cities promotes excellence in local government through effective advocacy, expert analysis, and trusted guidance for all Minnesota cities.

# CALL US

**Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions**

License, titling and registration: M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

General information: M-F 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157

[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

For more information on OHV trails, maps, trip planning, safety training, rules and regulations, trail closures and more, visit [mndnr.gov/ohv](http://mndnr.gov/ohv).

**To contact a conservation officer** call 888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157.



MinnesotaDNR



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## **mn** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

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## OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE



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