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**Building Safe Communities Together:
Injuries are Preventable**

July 2015

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...



**Building Safe Communities Together:
Injuries are Preventable**



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What are off-road vehicles?

PERMITTED ON-ROAD AS OF JULY 1, 2015



A single-rider all terrain vehicle (ATV) is designed to travel on four low-pressure tires, having a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, handlebars for steering control, and must be designed by the manufacturer to carry a driver only and no passengers.



A two-up ATV is designed and intended for use by an operator and a passenger. It is equipped with a seating position behind the operator designed to carry only one passenger.



A side-by-side ATV has two abreast seats, typically built with a hood, and uses a steering wheel instead of a motorcycle steering handlebar.



A utility terrain vehicle (UTV) has similar characteristics to a side-by-side ATV, but typically also features a box bed. UTVs are generally designed for utility rather than for recreational purposes.

NOT PERMITTED ON-ROAD



An off-road motorcycle (ORM) is one of the few ORVs manufactured and sold in Canada with a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (CMVSS) intended to be applied to it. Unlike the ORVs above, no industry manufacturer standard currently exists for ORMs.



While not limited to amphibious ORVs like the ARGO ATV, some models of side-by-side ATVs and UTVs may also fall within a category of larger ORVs that may have six to eight wheels and seat more than four passengers. Ministry staff have expressed concerns that it will be difficult to accommodate such a large vehicle footprint on a shoulder.

Rollovers can happen on flat ground and are the most common cause of ATV related injuries. [Lord, S., Tator, C.H., & Wells, S. (2010)]

References and Resources

1. Are We Doing Enough? – a status report on Canadian public policy and child and youth health – Canadian Pediatric Society 2007
www.cps.ca
2. OMA – ATVs Are Not Child’s Play: Ontario’s Doctors 2009
3. Smart Ride Safe Ride: What You Need to Know to Operate an ATV in Ontario
<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/>
4. Municipal Authority and Off-Road Vehicles
<http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca>
www.ontario.ca/atv
5. Canadian All-Terrain Vehicle Distributors Council - www.CATS.ca
6. Ministry of Natural Resources
www.mnr.gov.on.ca
7. Ministry Traffic Act of Ontario (Reg. 316/03)
8. Ministry of Transportation: www.mto.gov.on.ca
9. ATV Safety Network: www.atvsafetynet.org
10. ATV Safety: www.atvsafety.gov
11. Canadian Institute for Health Information: www.cihi.ca, www.smartrisk.ca,
www.cohv.ca
12. Off-Road Vehicles Act
Canadian All-Terrain Vehicle Distribution Council - www.catc.ca
“Tips for the ATV Rider”, 2003
13. Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distribution Council - www.cvhr.ca “Parents, Youngsters & All Terrain Vehicles”, 2009
14. Ministry of Ontario - www.mnr.gov.on.ca “Smart Ride Safe Ride: What You Need to Know to Operate an ATV in Ontario”, 2011

The highest risk group for ATV fatalities is from age 15-29. 25% of fatalities occur in children under the age of 16. [Lord, S., Tator, C.H., & Wells, S. (2010)]

Recommendations for a Fun, Safe Ride!



Take an ATV Safety Course.



Know how your particular vehicle works and know its limits. Read the operator's manual.



Check weather forecasts before heading out.



Let someone know where you are going and when you are expected to return. Use maps and compasses in unfamiliar territory. Stay put if you are lost.



Do a pre-ride inspection: gas, oil, and other fluid levels; lights; brakes; tires and air pressure.



Carry a First Aid and vehicle repair kit.



Wear appropriate safety gear to prevent injury and bright clothing for visibility.



Always ride with a companion or in a group.



Ride according to trail, road, and weather conditions.



Stay in control. Ride within your skill level and abilities.



Ride on designated trails and respect the environment.



Drive sober. It is against the law to drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Major causes of injury and death

- ◆ DRIVER INEXPERIENCE
- ◆ SPEED
- ◆ IMPAIRMENT
- ◆ NO HELMET/IMPROPER ATTIRE
- ◆ DRIVING ON PAVED ROADS
- ◆ LACK OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- **Age (younger than 16)**
These children do not have the know how, physical development, motor skills and thinking ability to ride an ATV safely.
- **ATV weight and speed**
These vehicles can weigh in excess of 800 pounds. ATV riders need to have the skills and be physically able to ride an ATV safely to prevent ATV from rolling/tipping over.
- **Alcohol and drugs (including cold tablets & allergy remedies)**
Alcohol and drugs may impair your ability to ride an ATV, affecting reaction time, judgment and general awareness.
- **Not wearing a helmet**
A helmet is the single most important piece of personal protection an ATV rider can wear.
- **Riding on pavement and unfamiliar terrain**
ATVs are designed for trail use. Driving on pavement may cause loss of control and increase the chance of colliding with another vehicle.

Head injuries are the leading cause of serious injury and death in ATV-related injury events (Safe Kids Canada, 2010)

Know the Law: Rules of the Road

- A highway can include a **roadway, street or avenue**, including **any surface intended for or used by the general public for the passage of motor vehicles** which consists of **all of the land which falls within the highway right-of-way**, such as the **shoulder and ditch**. Restrictions as to allowable highways fall under Schedule A, B, and C of Ontario Regulation 316/03.
- For on-road riding, ATV/ORV drivers must be **at least 16 years of age** and hold a **valid G2 or M2 license** or greater.
- The vehicle must display a **rear license plate** and drivers must carry the vehicle's **registration** and proof of **insurance**.
- For on-road riding, **passengers** on any ATV/ORV **cannot be under the age of 8**.
- **Passengers** must use appropriate separate **foot rests** (Two-Up ATVs) or **seat belts** (Side-by-Side ORVs and UTVs) as required by law.
- ORVs towing a trailer or other attachment **cannot travel on a roadway with passengers on the trailer** or other attachment.
- **Children under 12 years old cannot operate an ATV/ORV** unless they are on land owned by the ATV/ORV owner and/or supervised by an adult on a trail off-road.
- **All riders must wear approved motorcycle helmets** securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap. Helmets **must meet DOT, Snell or ECE ratings** (i.e. CSA CAN3-D230-M85 standards).
- An ATV must be **driven in the same direction as traffic** and **travel on the shoulder of the road**. If the shoulder is unsafe or impassable, or it is not wide enough so all the tires can be completely on the shoulder, the ATV/ORV can be driven on the travelled portion of the road but must be as close to the roadway edge as possible.
- The **Trans-Canada (Hwy#17)** is still a **prohibited highway** to all ATVs/ORVs and is not included in any of the Scheduled allowable highways. **It can only be crossed, not driven along**. All 500-800 series highways and those under the jurisdiction of a Roads Board in Unorganized areas are useable for approved ATV/ORVs.

Know the Law: Rules of the Road (cont'd)

- **Know your responsibilities wherever you ride**. Make yourself aware of any **relevant bylaws** enacted by the **host Municipality** regarding **ATV/ORV access to highways, roadways, and trails**.
- ATV/ORVs travelling along a road **must have headlights and tail lights on**. Brake lights may be incorporated in the taillight or as a separate light.
- **20 km/h is the maximum speed** an ATV/ORV can travel **on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less**.
- **50 km/h is the maximum speed** an ATV/ORV can travel **on roads with a posted speed limit of more than 50 km/h**.
- **All drivers aged 21 & younger are required to have a blood alcohol content level (BAC) of ZERO at all times while driving—on or off road**. Penalties include an immediate 24-hour license suspension, and a 30-day suspension and fine of up to \$500 upon conviction,
- Whether you are on **Crown Land, private property or a trail system**, it is **illegal** to drive an ATV/ORV **off-road while impaired and/or with a BAC level greater than .08** and will face **criminal charges** if caught.
- When operating a permitted ATV/ORV along a roadway, **drivers must obey Ontario's laws around impaired driving** under the **Highway Traffic Act** and the **Criminal Code of Canada**. Drivers with a BAC of higher than .08 or who refuse to provide a breath or blood sample to police will be charged and subjected to: a roadside 90 day driver's license suspension and 7 day vehicle impoundment; a \$150.00 administrative penalty; further license suspension and applicable fines (e.g. 1 year suspension and minimum \$1,000.00 fine for a first offence) upon conviction; requirement to complete the Back on Track remedial measures program at a cost of \$578.00; the installation of an ignition interlock device (cost without security deposit is approximately \$1,460.00 plus applicable HST and insurance on the device) for at least 1 year in any vehicle they drive.

Visit these sites for more information on ATV safety or legal requirements:

ontario.ca/atv

e-laws.gov.on.ca