

Safety

- OHV's are not toys!
- About one-third of OHV-related injuries and deaths involve children.
- It is recommended that persons under the age of 16 should NOT operate or ride on an adult ATV.
- Speed and weight of OHV's can be significant factors in crashes and injuries.
- OHVs can easily roll and tip over. Their unpredictable nature in off-road conditions makes training and proper use essential.
- All riders should wear a helmet.
- Vehicles respond differently on pavement compared to non-paved roads. Be familiar with the terrain.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Do not drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

It is unlawful for a person to drive an off-highway vehicle with reckless disregard for the safety of person or property **ARS 28-1174**

No person shall drive a motor operated vehicle cross-country on public or private lands where such cross-country driving is prohibited by rule or regulation or, in the case of private lands, by proper posting **ARS 17-454**

Taking of wildlife or discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle is prohibited. Discharging a firearm across a road is prohibited. **ARS 17-301.B**

COCONINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GUIDE TO OHV REGULATIONS & SAFETY



**** Information in this brochure is subject to change. It is your responsibility to know the current laws and regulations ****

Sheriff Jim Driscoll

911 E Sawmill Rd.
Flagstaff AZ 86001
(928) 774-4523
(800) 338-7888
Dial 911 for Emergencies

www.coconino.az.gov/sheriff.aspx



State Laws on MC & OHV Use:

- Operators should be knowledgeable of the laws pertaining to the operation of motorcycles and OHV's (Off Highway Vehicles). Operators should familiarize themselves with applicable laws as defined by **Arizona Revised Statutes** under **Title 13** (criminal code) and **Title 28** (traffic enforcement code).
- The vehicle must have the following equipment: horn, rearview mirror, muffler, approved brake system, headlight, tail light, brake light, license plate light, fuel tank cap, seat and foot rests for the operator and each passenger, (**ARS 28-921 to 28-966**)
- If the vehicle is being **operated on improved roads** (this includes forest service roads with horizontal signs), the vehicle must be "**street legal**" which also requires **proper insurance (ARS 28-4142A)**
- Parents should be aware that under **ARS 28-3474** they may be held accountable for their minor child who is operating the vehicle.
- All riders (operator and passenger) under the age of 18 must wear a helmet. Passengers are not allowed unless the vehicle is designed to carry more than one person.

Additional OHV Requirements:

- **An off-highway vehicle decal (OHV Decal)** is required to be affixed to the license plate for any vehicle that is designed by the manufacturer primarily for off-highway use and weighing 1,800 pounds or less. This includes most all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), side-by-side (utility vehicles), dirt bikes and some sand rails. **The OHV Decal is an annual user fee, which is not the same as "registration"**
- OHV's must have an **Arizona Certificate of Title and license plate** prior to purchasing the OHV Decal.
- OHV's are required to have an approved spark arrestor and noise dissipative device
- Travel is limited to roads, trails and areas open by the land management agency for motorized vehicle use.
- For more information on decals visit www.servicearizona.com



Ride Legally, Responsibly, and Safely

Accept personal responsibility for your decisions and actions.

Be aware of risks associated with off road recreation. Take time to learn how risks can be managed.

Develop good skills and judgment. Consider taking an accredited class to improve your skills and knowledge.

Definitions:

- **Street or highway** means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way if a part of the way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. This may include some forest service roads.
- **Off-road recreational motor vehicle** is a motor vehicle that is designed primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain travel and that is not operated on a public highway **ARS 28-101.43**
- **Off-highway vehicle** is a motorized vehicle when operated off highways on land, water, snow, ice or other natural terrain or on a combination of land, water, snow, ice or other natural terrain **ARS 28-1171.6**
- **All-terrain vehicle (ATV)** is a motor vehicle that satisfies all of the following **ARS 28-101.3**:
 - Is designed primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain travel
 - Is 50 or fewer inches in width
 - Has unladen weight of 800 pounds or less
 - Travels on three or more low-pressure tires
 - Has a seat to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control
- **Motorcycles**
 - **Street** motorcycles are designed for use on public streets and highways. They have all the equipment for street operation.
 - **Dual-Purpose** motorcycles are equipped for use on the street and off-road trails.
 - **Off-Road** motorcycles do not normally come with equipment to make them street-legal. They are typically used for recreational or competitive use.

Passengers

Carrying a passenger can affect the way a vehicle handles. The weight makes starting out more difficult and reduces acceleration capability. More time and space will be required for passing. Stopping distance also may be increased. Stability may be affected in turns and curves.

Vehicles must be appropriately equipped for passengers.

Title / Registration / License Plates:

- Title and registration are two different things. A title is proof of ownership. Registration allows you to operate a vehicle on public roads. A title is required for ATVs. *Insurance also may be required*
- The Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) is responsible for title and registration in Arizona www.azdot.gov
- When you buy an OHV from a licensed dealer in Arizona, the dealer must submit proper documentation to the MVD. If a lien from a financial institution is on the ATV, the title will be mailed to the lien holder. If you buy from a private party, it is your responsibility to apply for transfer of title with the MVD.
- A new owner of an ATV receives from the MVD an off-road license plate. This plate is marked with the letters RV.
- If the vehicle is to be driven on Arizona streets or highways on which registration is required, the vehicle must be properly registered. The vehicle may require additional equipment or modifications to be street legal.
- Arizona law requires the license plate to be securely fastened in a clearly visible position to the rear of the ATV.



Even though the vehicle may be called an "off-road" vehicle, many roads and areas are "off-limits" to any motorized vehicles

Stay in designated riding areas – help protect natural resources

Protective Gear



Helmets – There are four basic components of a DOT-approved helmet that work together to provide comfort and protection. **A helmet is no guarantee against injury, but studies indicate that a rider who crashes without a helmet is five times more likely to have serious head injuries.**

Eye and Face Protection – Ordinary glasses or sunglasses can shatter or fly off. Face shields come in a variety of designs to fit most any helmet.

Footwear – Sturdy over-the-ankle boots help protect riders from a variety of riding hazards.

Gloves - Full-fingered gloves protect hands from the wind, sun, heat and cold. Reinforced motorcycle gloves help protect hands in the event of a fall.

Jackets, Pants, Riding Suits – Quality protective gear will provide comfort and may prevent or reduce injury. Wearing **bright colors** is a wise choice and also can help a rider be more visible.

Hearing Protection – Properly worn hearing protection can reduce wind (and engine) noise, while allowing you to hear important sounds like car horns and sirens. Styles include disposable foam plugs to reusable custom - molded devices.

Generally, motor vehicles including motorcycles and OHVs that operate on improved roadways, must comply with state requirements for registration, license, insurance and equipment

State Law applies on Forest Service and BLM administered roads

Some laws and regulations may apply on private property



Where to Ride

For more information on regulations, areas to ride and safety, visit the official websites of the Arizona Game and Fish, Arizona State Parks, or Arizona State Land Department

Be sure to check Motor Vehicle Use Maps of the US Forest Service for information on which forest roads are open to motor vehicle use in Coconino County