

Minnesota ATV Laws

All ATV riders (passengers and operator) under age 18 on public land must wear a helmet at all times.

Registration is required. There are two types of registration: for public land use, renewal is once every three years and for private land use or agricultural purposes, registration is good for as long as the vehicle is owned. No one under 18 can register an ATV.

A driver's license is required to operate an ATV along or on public road rights-of-way. No operator under 12 can cross public roads or drive on public roads and lands, except an operator at least 10 years old may operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands if accompanied by parent. Operators between 12 and 15 must have a safety training certificate and be accompanied by an adult 18 or older who possesses a driver's license to operate on public lands. In order to be issued a safety training certificate, operators under 12 must have completed a safety training course and be able to reach and control the handlebars and reach the footrests.

Effective January 1, 2006, anyone born after July 1, 1987 and is 16 or older, must complete an independent study course component of ATV safety training before operating an ATV on public land.

ATV use on paved roads is allowed where and how designated. A rider may not operate an ATV on a trail designated "not for motorized use," posted public lands, state park lands, wildlife management areas, or unfrozen water.

If an ATV is equipped with headlight and taillight, it may not be operated unless lighted at all times. All ATVs operated between ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise must have lighted headlight and taillight. An ATV may not be operated with a passenger except a parent may carry one passenger under age 16, a person age 18 or older may carry one passenger age 16 or 17, and a person 18 or older may carry one passenger age 18 or older.

New Law Change for Minnesota ATV's

A change to Minnesota ATV law now classifies certain utility type ATV's such as the Polaris Ranger as a Class 2 ATV.

According to the new change, these vehicles may be operated on the extreme right hand side of roadways, including the shoulder of trunk, county state aid, and county highways.

The new change also allows these vehicles to be operated on city and township roads unless local ordinances prohibit such use.

State ATV Deaths

Total Reported Deaths (1982-2006):

*Data collection for 2003-2006 is incomplete 218

Reported Deaths (1982-2002): 143

Reported Deaths (2003-2006):

*Data collection for 2003-2006 is incomplete 75

Reported Deaths (1982-2002): Children under 16 59