

Off-road vehicles and you



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What is an off-road vehicle?

Under current legislation, all snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are considered off-road vehicles. The definition of all-terrain vehicle now includes amphibious, utility and side-by-side vehicles.

What documents do I need to carry while operating an ORV?

- Registration card or a photocopy; licence plate must be mounted **securely** at rear of vehicle showing valid registration. *For snowmobiles it must be mounted on the snow flap.*
- Proof of insurance (unless you are operating **only** on your property). *Insurance is recommended, but not mandatory for dirt bikes and dune buggies.
- ID card
- Safety Training Certificate (if you are under 16 years old or supervising youth operators).
- For snowmobiles and ATVs using NB managed trails, a trail pass permanently attached and clearly visible. *For snowmobiles the trail pass must be permanently attached to the bottom centre of the windshield. If no windshield, attach it to left side of front cowling.*

What are the equipment requirements?

- All operators and passengers must wear a helmet meeting safety standards.
- All ORVs must be equipped with a working headlight, red taillight, red brake light, rearview mirror (mounted on left side of vehicle) and amber lights or reflectors mounted on each side of vehicle.
- If turn signals were installed when the vehicle was manufactured, they must be kept in working order.
- Muffler system must comply with manufacturer's original specifications. **Operators are prohibited from driving ORV that cause unusual or excessive noise.**

Where can I operate an ORV?

All-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles can be driven on approved trails or your own private property. Please contact the New Brunswick All Terrain Vehicle Federation or New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs for the most up-to-date information on approved trails.

Do not operate near sensitive areas such as wetlands and sand dunes. **It is illegal to ride up and down streams.** Stay off private properties, plantations and beaches and use approved ORV bridges to cross waterways whenever possible.

Can I operate an ORV on or near a highway?

Off-road vehicles cannot be driven within 7.5 metres of a highway, unless on an approved trail.

If you are crossing a highway you must:

- Bring the vehicle to a complete stop before crossing.
- Drive your vehicle directly across the highway.

What happens if I break an ORV law?

Fines for offences under the Off-Road Vehicle Act start at \$172.50, but in some cases a judge may impose a fine up to \$20,500

Offences include, but are not limited to:

- Operating without a helmet.
- Operating an unregistered vehicle.
- Operating without insurance (for ATVs and snowmobiles).
- Operating within 7.5 metres of a highway.
- Operating on pedestrian only trails.
- Failing to show officers required documents.

It is illegal to operate an ORV under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. You are also prohibited from driving an ORV if you have had your driving privileges suspended under the motor vehicle act as a result of driving while impaired.

A complete list of potential offences is available online at: www.gnb.ca/publicsafety

What are the rules for operators under the age of 16?

Snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle operators under the age of 16 are required to take an approved safety training course. Off-road vehicles must be registered and insured.

All operators under 16 years of age must:

- Complete an approved safety training course.
- Be supervised in clear view of someone who is at least 19 years old and has successfully completed an approved safety training course. While supervising, the adult must carry their training certificate.

Size restrictions according to age

	Age 6-11	Age 12-13	Age 14-15
ATV: not exceeding	70 cc	90 cc	90 cc
Snowmobile: not exceeding	120 cc	340 cc	340 cc
Dirt bike: not exceeding	120 cc	150 cc	230 cc

Safety tips

- Inspect your off-road vehicle.
- Wear the proper protective clothing and helmet. It is illegal to operate without a helmet.
- Let someone know where you are going— it is always better to travel with at least one other person.
- Stay on marked trails, they are safer.
- Take a survival kit and cell phone in case of an emergency.
- Don't drink and operate your ORV. Never operate while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Operate your ORV at safe speeds, especially on unfamiliar or rugged terrain where hazards may be encountered.
- Slow down at night.
- Check your front and rear lights and ensure reflectors on the sides are in place, particularly if you're traveling at night.

Contact information:

- Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement: 1-877-449-2244 email: OffRoadVehicle@gnb.ca
- New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs: 1-506-325-2625
- New Brunswick All Terrain Vehicle Federation: 1-888-847-1100
- NB Trails Council: 1-800-526-7070

