



What is an Off-Road Vehicle?

An off-road vehicle is defined as a wheeled or tracked motorized vehicle, designed or adapted for cross-country travel on land, water, ice, snow, marsh, swamp land or other natural terrain, and includes:

- a motorized snow vehicle;
- an all-terrain vehicle, including a side-by-side;
- a mini-bike, dirt-bike and trail-bike;
- a miniature vehicle, such as a dune or sport buggy;
- an off-road maintenance machine; and
- an amphibious vehicle.

An off-road vehicle does not include agricultural equipment, infrastructure equipment, or a garden lawn mower, lawn tractor or golf cart.

Owner's Duties

As the owner of an off-road vehicle, you are required to ensure that the vehicle is registered, and anyone operating your vehicle:

- is properly supervised (if required)
- has completed training (if required)
- uses required safety equipment (including helmets, goggles or face shields).

Additional Safety Requirements

- Riders are not permitted to operate a mini-bike, dirt bike or trail bike unless they can keep both feet on the pedals or foot rests*
- Operators of a side-by-side must be able to sit with the seatbelt fastened and both feet flat on the floor*

*except where approved disability-related modifications have been completed.

Remember!

- Always wear a helmet
- Follow all rules when driving on a highway
- Never drive impaired
- Only carry passengers on off-road vehicles that are designed for passengers
- Respect the environment
- Ride the appropriate off-road vehicle for your size
- Ride according to weather and road conditions, and maintain a safe speed

USE YOUR HEAD...



STAY SAFE OFF-ROAD

A Guide to Off-Road Vehicle Safety

Newfoundland
&
Labrador



Newfoundland
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Operation on a Highway

If you have a driver's licence (or are properly supervised) and your vehicle is insured, you can operate an off-road vehicle:

- across a highway where your visibility is at least 150 metres in both directions;
- along the shoulder of a highway to access a trail at a maximum speed of 20 km/h for up to one kilometre.

You must yield the right-of-way to any road vehicles on the highway at all times.

Helmets

Helmets are required for all riders, including passengers, and anyone being towed in a trailer.

You are not required to wear a helmet during hunting and trapping activities involving frequent stops, if your speed does not exceed 20 km/h.

If you think wearing a helmet on a side-by-side is not necessary because you are enclosed in a roll cage, then think again. The very nature of operating these vehicles in rough and rugged off-road environments increases the potential for injury or death during a rollover or collision. Close proximity to trees, stumps and rocks greatly increases the chance of these obstacles entering a vehicle, regardless of other protective equipment.



Riding a snowmobile is highly comparable to riding an all-terrain vehicle when considering safety equipment, especially a helmet. If an operator experiences loss of control, a rollover or collision, they or their passengers can easily become separated from the vehicle and come in contact with trees, stumps, rocks or other off-road vehicles. Wearing a properly fitted helmet helps prevent injuries, and greatly increases the chance of survival in these situations.

Goggles/Face Shield

If your off-road vehicle does not have a windshield of a sufficient height, you and your passengers must wear safety glasses, goggles or a face shield to provide adequate protection to your eyes.

Seatbelts and Child Seats

If your off-road vehicle is equipped with a seat belt, you must wear it.

If your child is required to use a car/booster seat under the **Highway Traffic Act**, and your off-road vehicle is equipped with a seat belt, the child must be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat when riding as a passenger.

Age Limits

Children and youth under the age of 16 can only operate an off-road vehicle with an engine size that meets the manufacturer's recommendation for an operator of their age and weight. They must also be supervised by a licenced driver who is at least 18 years of age.



Supervision

If you are supervising someone under the age of 16, you must be able to see them at all times and provide direction to them when needed. You also need to ensure they can see you.

Supervisors are also responsible for ensuring the operator has completed safety training and is wearing safety equipment (helmets, goggles or face shields).

Operator Safety Training

Training will be required for anyone under the age of 16; anyone registering an off-road vehicle for the first time; and, anyone convicted of an offence under the Act or Regulations, who has had their registration suspended or cancelled, and is required by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to complete it.

Also, anyone who supervises the operation of an off-road vehicle, by a person under the age of 16 years of age, must ensure the person being supervised has received training.

The public will be advised when mandatory training is available.

Towing Trailers

If you are towing a trailer with your off-road vehicle, the type of hitch used must meet the requirements in the **Off-Road Vehicles Act**.

You are not permitted to operate an off-road vehicle on or across a highway with passengers in a trailer.

