



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Q: When and where can I operate an ATV in Minnesota

A: The state of Minnesota has an agricultural zone restriction that states that you may not drive an ATV within the right-of-way (ditch) of a state or county road from April 1 to Aug. 1 in the agricultural zone. This does not apply to Class 1 ATVs registered and used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

It is illegal to operate on the inside slope, shoulder and roadway of state and county roads.

All ATVs operated in Minnesota must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources, including those used exclusively on private property.

A recreational use registration allows for the operation of Class 1 ATVs in the ditch bottom and on the outer slope of roadside ditches along the state and county roads, and on the right side of township roads and city streets, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws.

Q: Who can operate and ATV in Minnesota?

A: Anyone under 16 must have a parent's or guardian's permission to operate an ATV. In general, ages 12 and under may operate on private property (refer to Web site for detailed regulations). Ages 12-15 may operate with a valid ATV certificate, and can make direct crossing of roadways if accompanied on another ATV by a person 18 or older who has a valid driver's license. Ages 15 and older must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way.

A passenger or operator under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.

A person under the age of 16 must have the permission of their parent or guardian to operate an ATV.

A person under 18 may not carry a passenger.

If you need any additional information it can be found on the Minnesota DNR Web site: www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

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