



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWS RELEASE

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DNR Urges ATV/UTV Operators To Prep For A Safe Season



Completing a safety class is a component of responsible operation, just like wearing helmets and seatbelts. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds riders to earn their ATV/UTV safety certification by completing an approved course.

ATV/UTV operators at least 12 years old and born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, are required to complete a state DNR-approved safety education course, and to carry proof of certification while riding on public trails, routes and some private lands. For regulations and class specifics visit the [DNR's website](#). The DNR strongly recommends that all operators, regardless of age, register for a class today to brush up on skills, knowledge and important safety strategies.

"Wisconsin continues to see a significant number of ATV/UTV crashes with many operators never completing a safety course," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "Safety classes are designed to focus on crash prevention and give students proven, real-life skills to keep them safe while out riding."

Completing a safety class is another component of responsible operation, just like wearing helmets and seatbelts. "Think of your safety class certificate as your driver's license for an ATV/UTV, a must-have for safer operation," Holsclaw said.

ATV/UTV Safety Classes

Participants have their choice of online or in-person classes. Parents are urged to join their children at safety classes.

- In-person classes fill up fast so don't wait.
- Classes are geared for students ages 11 and up.
- Many in-person courses are completed in one weekend.

View more statistics, including the [2024 Recreational Vehicle Annual Report](#) on the DNR's [ATV crash incident webpage](#).

Visit the [DNR's website](#) to sign up for a safety course or learn about becoming a safety education instructor.

Take Note Of New Regulations

Please note that new regulations have been announced, including the below. The DNR will soon release a new regulations pamphlet detailing these updates and more.

- Operators and passengers are all required to wear a seatbelt in a UTV.
- Intentionally causing damage with an ATV or UTV can cost you more than a fine – up to three times the cost to repair the damage.
- ATV or UTV operators may not tow objects bearing any person on a trail or route. Towing persons on ice is limited to 10 mph.
- UTVs now have window tint restrictions.