



Off-highway vehicles

Rules & Regulations for



www.woodlands.ab.ca

Definition

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) include snowmobiles, quads, mini-bikes and any additional means of transportation powered other than by muscular or wind power and built for cross-country travel on land.



Provincial Regulations

The Province of Alberta sets standard regulations, under the Traffic Safety Act, which apply to the entire province. All riders must obey these regulations, which include laws such as minimum age for riders and proof of insurance. If riders do not obey provincial regulations, they will be subject to fines.

The Alberta Traffic Safety Act allows for municipalities to enact its own bylaws. So whether riding in Woodlands County or elsewhere, it is important for riders to know the provincial regulations and the bylaws of the municipality. To view the Traffic Safety act visit the province's website at <http://atsb.alberta.ca>.

Here are a few regulations found under the provincial Traffic Safety Act:

- Off-highway vehicles must be insured and registered.
- You must stop before crossing highways.
- Persons under the age of 14 cannot operate an OHV without direct supervision.
- Exhaust muffler cannot be excessively noisy or produce flames or sparks.



Woodlands County's Bylaws

In 2003, Woodlands County council approved Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaws to be enforced throughout the County. These bylaws compliment the provincial Traffic Safety Act. To view Woodlands County's Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) bylaw log on to www.woodlands.ab.ca or call 1-888-870-6315 for more information.

The following is a brief overview of Woodlands County's OHV bylaws:

- The maximum speed OHVs are permitted to travel on County highways (not to be mistaken with provincial highways) is 40 km/h.
- Operators must travel on the extreme right-hand side of the road and travel single file.
- All OHVs must be equipped with two headlights and at least one tail light.
- All off-highway vehicles must be registered and insured.

In a subdivision or a hamlet:

OHVs shall use the roadway ONLY to leave from and return to their residence via the most direct route.

- The maximum speed while riding on the road surface is 20 km/hr.
- Cannot operate between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- OHVs are not permitted to operate on any park, playground, school ground, campground or areas of seniors housing, hospital or other health care facilities.

Enforcement

Woodlands County's bylaws and the Traffic Safety Act are enforced by the County's Peace Officers. The Officers will hit the trails this summer on OHVs to enforce the provincial regulations and County bylaws.

Private Property

OHV operators are reminded not to ride onto other people's property. Trespassing can damage crops, fences and other property, and is against the law. If you don't know whose property it is or you don't have permission to be on that piece of land, don't go on it.

ALWAYS GET PERMISSION!

Did you know?

Woodlands County has a designated area for OHV use called the **Timeu Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area**. It is located northeast of Fort Assiniboine on the north side of Highway 661. The area, composed of sandhills and intermittent wetlands, is about 38 square kilometres in size.



Fines

OHV operators face significant fines for local bylaw and provincial offences. Listed below are common fines a rider could receive for a first offence if they aren't following the rules and regulations. Fines increase for second and subsequent offences.

Fail to operate OHV on right side of road	\$50
Fail to leave/return to hamlet via direct route	\$50
Exceed maximum speed prescribed for ditch/road	\$50
Exceed maximum speed for hamlet/subdivision	\$50
Operate OHV where prohibited by signage	\$50
Operate OHV without headlight/taillight lit	\$57
Carelessly drive OHV on any property	\$402
Fail to stop for a Peace Officer	\$172
Drive/permit another to drive OHV without registration	\$115
Drive an uninsured OHV	\$230
Registered owner of uninsured OHV permit another to drive	\$230
Drive OHV on highway without authorization	\$230
Permit another to drive OHV contrary to Traffic Safety Act	\$230
Driver of OHV fail to stop before crossing highway	\$230
Driver of OHV fail to stop for vehicle on highway	\$230
Driver of OHV fail to obey traffic control device on highway	\$172
Driver of OHV fail to provide requested info to Officer	\$172
Driver fail to remain stopped for Officer until permitted to leave	\$172
Person under 14 years drive OHV on highway	\$115
Permit under 14 years to drive OHV unauth'd in public place	\$115
Person under 14 drive on public property w/o supervision	\$115
Drive OHV in public w/o 2 proper headlamps on front	\$57
Drive OHV w/o proper exhaust muffler	\$57
Exhaust muffler excessively noisy/produce flames or sparks	\$57
Drive OHV w/o license plate attached and visible	\$57



P.O. Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane
Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N3
780.778.8400

Stop wildfires! before you start

There are simple ways to ensure your OHV enjoyment doesn't start fires:

- Before you ride, inspect your OHV and clear out any debris that has built up near the exhaust and under the seat
- After riding through muskeg or tall grassy areas, stop and remove any potential fire starting debris. Dispose of hot debris safely by making sure it is out!
- Always carry a collapsible shovel and small fire extinguisher
- Wash your OHV regularly, and stay out of streams and creeks to preserve fish habitat
- Ensure the muffler and spark arresters on your OHV are in good working condition. Any alterations to the factory components of an OHV can greatly increase the chance of starting a wildfire

Spots to watch

Under the seat

