



New! RECENT OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) LAW CHANGES

The State Legislature has enacted several ORV law changes over the years. Here is a two-page summary of the most recent law changes:

Non-resident ATV/UTV Trail Passes

- A temporary operating receipt (printed on plain white paper) will be issued upon purchase of a Non-resident, Annual ATV/UTV Trail Pass and allows the customer to operate immediately. The physical trail pass decal will arrive in the mail in approximately two weeks or less. Non-resident annual trail passes may be purchased [online](#) or over the counter at many select authorized [sales locations](#) or by calling WDNR at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463)
- The Non-resident, 5-Day ATV/UTV Trail Pass must be printed from a home computer or Go Wild location on plain white paper once the purchase is complete. The customer is allowed to operate immediately and will need to carry this document while on the trails. There is no decal or sticker that is mailed when purchasing the 5-Day ATV or UTV Trail Pass.
- Nonresident 5-day trail passes may be purchased [online](#) or at any one of 1300 [sales locations](#).

Small ATVs and UTVs

- The legal definition of a “small all-terrain vehicle” was changed by increasing the max engine size from 90 to 130 ccs.
- A new definition of “small utility terrain vehicle” was created. Small UTVs must meet all of the same legal specifications of the full-sized UTVs, however the engine size can only be 200 cubic centimeters (cc) or less. Previously, small UTVs weren’t legally defined.
- Children between the ages of 12 – 15 may now operate small UTVs on designated off-road ATV trails only if they are accompanied by a designated adult and possess a valid ATV Safety Certificate. Previously no one under age 16 could operate a UTV. **NOTE:** This is different than the small ATV exception which allows children under age 12 to operate with adult accompaniment. Small ATV operators under age 12 are not required to possess safety certificates because Wisconsin certificates aren’t valid until the child turns age 12. In addition, adult accompaniment is required.

Safety Education for UTV Operators

- The safety education requirement for UTV operators was changed to operators at least age 12 and born on or after 1-1-88 to operate in public and certain private areas. Previously no one under age 16 could operate a UTV. Now that younger children may operate small UTVs, the minimum age was lowered.

Youth Roadway Restrictions

- Restricts children under age 16 from operating UTVs on a roadway under any circumstances. This coincides with the newly created small UTV exception so that children operating both small ATVs and UTVs are restricted to off-road trails with adult accompaniment. Previously there also was no minimum age established for agricultural use of a UTV on a roadway like there was for ATVs. Minimum age for agricultural use of an ATV on a roadway was set as age 12 with a safety certificate and now the minimum age for agricultural use of a UTV on a roadway is age 16 with a safety certificate.
- Children age 12-15 operating on ATV road routes must possess an ATV Safety Certificate and be accompanied by a designated adult. Accompaniment does not require that the adult be on the same machine with the child.

UTV Definition Changes

- UTVs no longer are required to have a cargo box.
- UTVs with a single, non-straddled seat may be registered.