

2013 WISCONSIN ATV/UTV LAW CHANGES

The State Legislature enacted several new ATV/ UTV laws which became effective on June 23, 2013.

Specifically these laws have the following effects:

- Permits youth under age 12 to operate on any private property with permission and adult oversight. No safety certificate is needed if accompanied by a designated adult. **NOTE:** “Accompanied” means being subject to continuous verbal direction or control, but does not require the adult to be on the same machine as the youth.
WHAT CHANGED? Previously, youth under age 12 could only operate on private property if it was owned by their parent or guardian, brother or sister.
- Permits youth under age 12 to operate a small ATV (90 cc or less) on public trails without a safety certificate if accompanied by a designated adult.
WHAT CHANGED? Previously, youth could only trail ride if accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Requires youth ages 12 through 15 to be accompanied by a designated adult while operating an ATV on a road route. (Not trails.)
WHAT CHANGED? There was no adult accompaniment requirement.
- Eliminates the 10 mph speed limit on ATV road routes when within 100 feet of a person not operating a motorized vehicle and when within 150 feet of a dwelling. Posted speed limits or local ordinances would apply.
WHAT CHANGED? Previously, these speed limits were in effect.
- Permits people to operate without required safety certification during a demonstration event on a closed course. The event must be sponsored by a licensed dealer, a club, municipality, county or the State. If the person is under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a designated adult. All operators, including those age 18 and older, must wear helmets.
WHAT CHANGED? Previously, all operators at least age 12 and born on or after 01/01/1988, were required to possess an ATV safety certificate to legally operate at a demonstration event.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources greatly encourages all individuals to ride smart from the start by completing an approved ATV/UTV safety course and to wear an approved helmet. Each year, the majority of ATV/UTV deaths involve someone that was not wearing a helmet. Crashes are unpredictable, so always protect yourself by wearing a helmet. Do it for yourself and your family and friends!