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PROGRAM SCOPE

The Bureau of Law Enforcement ATV/UTV program has a wide range of duties and responsibilities which include:

- Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration
- Enforcement
- Safety Education
- Operations and Training
- Public Service Announcements
- Municipal Ordinance Review

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration

An ATV/UTV crash incident is any incident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) that results in a fatality or an injury that requires medical treatment by a physician.

Wisconsin law requires every ATV/UTV operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, within 10 days of the incident, the operator must submit a written report on Form 4100-174 to the Department of Natural Resources.

Over the past 10 years there has been a slight decreasing trend in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered ATVs (does not include ATV trail passes). This trend is based on the increasing number of registered ATV/UTV.

![History of ATV fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations]

- 2004: 8.08
- 2005: 15
- 2006: 7.64
- 2007: 4.4
- 2008: 6.57
- 2009: 4.88
- 2010: 5.62
- 2011: 4.99
- 2012: 6.99
- 2013: 5.59


0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00 6.00 7.00 8.00 9.00

History of ATV fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations
Of the total 314,770 registrations in 2013, 19,441 of those were UTVs, up 8,833 from 2012.

UTV registration was mandatory since April 2012.

Registration cycle change: A public-use registration certificate for an ATV or UTV is valid beginning on April 2nd or the date of issuance or renewal and ending March 31st of the 2nd year following the date of issuance or renewal. There is a late fee of $5 for renewal if registration has expired.

Registrations include public use, private use and municipal use.

Wisconsin had 22 ATV/UTV fatalities, 7 more than the previous year.

The ATV/UTV fatality trend has increased since 1999.

ATV trail passes are required on out-of-state ATV/UTVs not registered in Wisconsin.

As of July 1, 2012, a new 5-day trail pass was made available.

WISCONSIN RESIDENT ATV/UTV REGISTRATIONS

HISTORY OF ATV/UTV FATALITIES
55% of the operators involved in an accident reported their ATV/UTV experience as over 100 hours.

One of the greatest contributing factors to ATV/UTV fatalities is the operator not being ATV/UTV safety certified. 91% of the operators involved in an accident reported no ATV/UTV safety education course an increasing and prominent trend over the past several years.

Certification in ATV/UTV safety is encouraged for operators of all ages.
Presence of Helmet During Accident

Another contributing factor to ATV/UTV fatalities is not wearing a helmet. Of the victims, 82% were not wearing a helmet.

Alcohol was involved in nine of the twenty-two incidents. “Alcohol Involved” means alcohol was detected in victim’s system or witness verified consumed alcohol. (Blood test results were unknown for nine incidents.)

Forty-one operators were arrested for operating a ATV/UTV while intoxicated down 14 from 55 arrests in 2012.

Amount of Alcohol (BAC) Detected in the Victim at the Time of the Accident

*All Data is representative of a percentage of the data from the 22 fatal accident victims from 2013.

*Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml).
10-Year Trend

Percent of Alcohol Involved Fatalities

Location of Incident

45% of fatal incidents occurred on roads. The miles of road routes have been increasing based on local municipal ordinances which are often driven by public request or inputs. ATVs/UTVs are designed for off-road use equipped with soft low pressure tires and high center of gravity causing them to be unstable on roadways.

*A Route is a public road opened to legal ATV/UTV travel by the local municipality.
10-Year Trend

Percentage of fatalities occurring on roadways.

There were 10 fatal crashes that involved rolling over with 8 fatal crashes that involved colliding with a fixed object.

Estimated Speed at Time of Accident

- 0-19 MPH (7) 32%
- 20-40 MPH (7) 32%
- Unknown (8) 36%
- Collision with fixed Object (8) 36%
- Rollover (10) 45%
- Ejected (2) 9%
- Fell from ATV (1) 5%
- Drove into open water (1) 5%

Type of Incident
Saturday and Sunday continue to be the days of the week with the highest number of fatal occurrences with a total of 13 for both days.

As the graph indicates most fatal crashes occur between the hours of 6-8PM.
Enforcement
State conservation wardens and county deputies provide on-the-trail enforcement of ATV/UTV laws.

In 2013 state conservation wardens and municipal patrol officers recorded 16,718 hours of ATV/UTV patrol and 983 hours on public relations.

Top Ten ATV/UTV Violations

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Illegal operation of ATV/UTV on or in the vicinity of highways.</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Operate ATV/UTV without registration.</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Operate ATV/UTV without a valid safety certificate or fail to carry certificate on ATV/UTV and display upon request.</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Operate ATV/UTV on public or private property or another without consent.</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Operate/ride ATV/UTV without headgear.</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Owner permitting operation by a person under age, physically or mentally disabled or under influence of alcohol or drug.</td>
<td>Both at 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Operate ATV/UTV while intoxicated.</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Operate with alcohol concentration above 0.08%.</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>ATV/UTV equipment violations and Operate, sell, rent or manufacture an ATV/UTV exceeding the 96 decibel noise limit.</td>
<td>Both at 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>Operate at a speed that is unreasonable or improper.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citations Issued for ATV/UTV Violations in 2013

State Conservation Wardens and county deputies provide on-the-trail enforcement of ATV/UTV laws.

The total number of citations for 2013 was 1,077.
Safety Education

NUMBER OF STUDENTS CERTIFIED

All-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle riding is a growing sport in Wisconsin. Along with the privilege of enjoying the sport comes the responsibility of making sure you are operating these vehicles safely and responsibly.

On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring mandatory ATV/UTV education. ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV and UTV safety certification course in order to operate on public ATV/UTV trails and areas in Wisconsin. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all ATV and UTV operators complete a safety course.

In 2013, 5,299 of the 7,708 total students were certified through an Internet Safety Course. The trend of the number of people being certified by the internet safety course vs. a traditional class room course is increasing.

Since the ATV/UTV Education Program began in 1986 there has been a steady increase of certified ATV/UTV students reaching 101,245 at the end of 2013.

NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED AND ACTIVE

2,409 students were certified by 597 active instructors in 154 classes
Operations and Training

In 2001 the Trail Patrol Ambassador Program was started, which is a group of dedicated and trained volunteers who give their time to patrol Wisconsin’s ATV trails.

Some of their tasks include:
- Educating the riders on the rules and regulations as well as ethical riding practices.
- Teach Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ATV certification classes.
- Patrol the trails while watching for riders in distress or riders who are violating the law.
- Trail Clean up.
- Sign posting.

ATV/Snowmobile Patrol Officer Training was held in 2013 providing training to over 70 Patrol Officers. Training is mandatory for all patrols every 2 years in order for the patrol to qualify for reimbursement aids.

Public Service Announcements

The ATV program used radio, television and media interviews across the state. Wisconsin DNR sponsored “ATV safety” public service announcements working with the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and JS Online.

The Department of Natural Resources continues to work with the Department of Tourism, The Off-road Vehicle Council and the Wisconsin ATV Association throughout the state in order to promote safe and ethical ATV/UTV operation.

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 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.

Municipal Ordinance Review

Counties, towns, cities and villages may enact ordinances regulating ATV/UTV trails and routes. If a county, town, city or village adopts an ordinance regulating ATV/UTV’s its clerk shall immediately send a copy of the ordinance to the department and to the office of any law enforcement agency of the municipality or county having jurisdiction over any highway designated as an ATV/UTV route.

Although Wisconsin law does not give the Department of Natural Resources advisory review authority the department will encourage and supervise a system of ATV/UTV routes and trails and may establish standards and procedures for certifying the designation of ATV/UTV routes and trails.

If significant inconsistencies with state law exist, in the interest of public safety and welfare, the county, town, city and villages the department may contact them.
## Wisconsin ATV/UTV Fatality Summary - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cause / Factors</th>
<th>Age / Sex / BAC / Residency</th>
<th>Helmet/WI Safety Certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) 1/19/2013  1:43PM</td>
<td>Lake, Town of Harrison, Calumet Co.</td>
<td>Drove into Open Water</td>
<td>42 / M / .000 / WI</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) 5/4/2013  &lt;7:00AM</td>
<td>Road (Not a Route), Village of Keshena, Menominee County</td>
<td>Collision with a Fixed Object / Alcohol</td>
<td>27 / M / .152 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) 5/18/2013  5:55PM</td>
<td>Public ATV Trail, Town of Harrison, Lincoln Co.</td>
<td>Ejected / Speed, Rough Trail</td>
<td>49 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) 5/22/2013  4:36PM</td>
<td>Public ATV Trail, Gillett Township, Oconto Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Fixed Object / Speed</td>
<td>17 / M / .000 / WI</td>
<td>Yes / Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) 5/24/2013  6:15PM</td>
<td>Private Property, Minong Township, Washburn Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Inexperience, Speed</td>
<td>11 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) 5/26/2013  6:02PM</td>
<td>ATV Road Route, Middle Inlet, Marinette Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Fixed Object</td>
<td>77 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) 5/27/2013  12:00AM</td>
<td>Private Property, Prairie Lake Township, Barron Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol</td>
<td>29 / M / .236 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) 6/11/2013  12:56PM</td>
<td>ATV Road Route, Oconto Falls, Oconto Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Vehicle / Fail to Yield, Illegal Operation of ATV on Roadway</td>
<td>19 / M / .000 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) The victim, traveling in his UTV, drove onto what appeared to be glare ice, however it was actually open water.

2) The victim was traveling down a roadway when he skidded off the road and collided with a utility pole.

3) The victim was traveling downhill, lost control, went slightly off the trail and hit an area of sandy soil.

4) The victim was found on the Gillett ATV trail where he apparently left the trail and collided with a tree.

5) The victim was operating an ATV at a high rate of speed on private property adjacent to a town road when he lost control. The ATV overturned and the victim sustained fatal head injuries.

6) The victim was operating an ATV on an ATV Road Route when he collided with a mailbox, sustaining serious injuries. The victim succumbed to his injuries and died on May 29, 2013.

7) The victim was operating an ATV down a roadway when he drove into a muddy spot in an agricultural field adjacent to the road. The victim was attempting to spin the ATV in a tight circle when the ATV rolled over onto the victim. The victim was located at 6:10AM, but had been deceased for several hours.

8) The victim turned in front of a truck pulling a trailer as it was trying to pass the ATV.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cause / Factors</th>
<th>Age / Sex / BAC / Residency</th>
<th>Helmet/WI Safety Certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9) 6/18/2013 6:57PM</td>
<td>ATV Road Route, Town of Saxon, Iron Co.</td>
<td>Ejected / Brake Failure, Speed</td>
<td>42 / F / .000 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) 7/4/2013 1:53PM</td>
<td>Public ATV Trail, Township of City Point, Jackson Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Fixed Object / Speed, Terrain</td>
<td>58 / M / NA / IL</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) 7/6/2013 4:44PM</td>
<td>Private Land, Town of Gratiot, Lafayette Co.</td>
<td>Rollover / Inexperienced Operation</td>
<td>9 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) 7/20/2013 1:05AM</td>
<td>Road (not a route), Town of Ellington, Outagamie Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Alcohol, Speed</td>
<td>36 / M / .180 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13) 7/27/2013 8:18AM</td>
<td>Road (not a route), Town of Lake, Marinette Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Speed, Operator Error</td>
<td>66 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14) 8/31/2013 7:33PM</td>
<td>ATV Road Route, Town of Medary, LaCrosse Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Fixed Object / Speed, Alcohol</td>
<td>25 / M / .140 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15) 8/4/2013 2:49PM</td>
<td>Private Property, Town of Fennimore, Grant Co.</td>
<td>Fell from UTV / Struck by mower, which was being pulled by the UTV</td>
<td>9 / M / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16) 8/31/2013 7:33PM</td>
<td>Road (not a route), Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol, Fail to Negotiate Curve in Road</td>
<td>28 / M / .172 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17) 9/8/2013 9:00PM</td>
<td>Road (not a route), LaValle Township, Sauk Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Alcohol, Drugs, Erratic Operation</td>
<td>32 / M / .332 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date/Time</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Cause / Factors</td>
<td>Age / Sex / BAC / Residency</td>
<td>Helmet/WI Safety Certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18) 9/8/2013</td>
<td>Private Property, Alden Township, Polk Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Steep Sloped Embankment, Loose Gravel</td>
<td>12 / M / NA / MN</td>
<td>Yes / Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19) 10/2/2013</td>
<td>Public ATV Trail, Winter, Sawyer Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Fixed Object / Speed, Alcohol</td>
<td>48 / M / .207 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20) 10/14/2013</td>
<td>Private Land, Fairbanks, Shawano Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Operator Inexperience</td>
<td>76 / F / NA / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21) 10/27/2013</td>
<td>Road (not a route), Eau Galle, Dunn Co.</td>
<td>Roll Over / Driving too fast for conditions, reckless operation</td>
<td>55 / F / .158 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22) 11/16/2013</td>
<td>ATV Road Route, Hughes, Bayfield Co.</td>
<td>Collision with Vehicle / Alcohol Failure to Yield Right of Way</td>
<td>44 / M / .269 / WI</td>
<td>No / No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Victim was turning the ATV around on a gravel driveway when the tires slid off the gravel driveway onto a sloped ditch.

Victim struck a tree leaning across the ATV trail.

Victim was found underneath the ATV and taken to the Medical Center; She passed a few days later.

Operator was attempting to turn around when the UTV overturned on the victim/passenger side ejecting the victim/passenger.

Victim was crossing over US Hwy 2 when he collided with a vehicle.
To view this report and a complete synopsis of the 2013 ATV fatalities visit http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/atv/atvCrashInfo.html