**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.

For more information, contact us at:


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PARKLAND COUNTY

August 2008

# *Off-Highway Vehicles*

Rules and Regulations
for riding OHVs in Parkland County

PARKLAND COUNTY

**Using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for recreational purposes can be fun, but they do have the potential for injury and even death.**

**Parkland County is working to educate users about municipal bylaws and provincial regulations relating to proper OHV operation and safety precautions to consider.**

# OHV Safety Tips

In addition to obeying the law, Parkland County asks that all OHV users consider the following safety tips:

- Check your OHV before each trip to ensure it is running properly
- Travel with others, if possible
- Be familiar with the terrain you travel
- Use extra caution when riding after daylight
- Keep your OHV properly maintained
- Wear layered clothing
- Always let a responsible person know where you are going and when you plan to return
- Carry emergency supplies and learn first aid and survival skills

## OHV Safety and your family

In order to create a safe environment for OHV enthusiasts to enjoy their sport, Parkland County encourages adults and parents to set a good example for their children.

Read this brochure together as a family and discuss the importance of operating OHVs in a safe and lawful manner.

## Respect 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.

## OHV Education

Parkland County Patrol Service offers an OHV Education Program to local schools and community groups to help teach the community responsible and safe use of OHVs.

If you are interested in a presentation, please contact Parkland County Patrol Service at 780-968-8400.

## Municipal Bylaws

The Alberta *Traffic Safety Act* allows municipalities to enact a bylaw that allows operation of OHVs on highways and public property as long as the operator follows all of the rules set out in the bylaw and the rules set out in the *Traffic Safety Act*.

OHV operators who are caught in contravention with municipal regulations are committing an offence and will, as a result, be penalized accordingly. Under Parkland County's bylaw, fines for offenders range from $57 to $500 for a first offence. For a second offence, the fine is doubled, and for a third offence, the fine is tripled.

Please note: the bylaw does not apply to primary and secondary highways, which are under the jurisdiction of the Province of Alberta. OHVs are not allowed within primary and secondary right-of-ways.

## Useful Websites

Government of Alberta
www.gov.ab.ca

Traffic Safety in Alberta
www.saferoads.com

Capital Health
www.capitalhealth.ca/EspeciallyFor/SafeATV

Alberta Snowmobile Association
www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca

Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association
www.aohva.com

Transport Canada
www.tc.gc.ca

Canada Safety Council
www.safety-council.org

Canadian All Terrain Distributors Council
www.catv.ca

# Fines

OHV operators now face **significant fines** for bylaw and provincial offences. Listed below are the fines associated with Parkland County's OHV Bylaw.

| | |
|---|---|
| Operate OHV without authorization | $230 |
| Operate OHV without an Operator's license | $230 |
| Operate OHV without registration | $115 |
| Operate uninsured OHV | $230 |
| Operate OHV without license plate attached/ legible/clearly visible | $115 |
| Fail to operate OHV on right hand side of road | $115 |
| Fail to leave/return hamlet/subdivision via direct route | $115 |
| Operate OHV outside of prescribed hours | $150 |
| Exceed maximum speed for ditch/road | $115 |
| Exceed maximum speed for hamlet/subdivision | $115 |
| Operate OHV in park, subdivision or highway where prohibited by signage | $500 |
| Operate OHV on environmental reserve or school property | $500 |
| Operate OHV without headlight/taillight lit | $57 |
| Operator/passenger fail to wear a helmet | $200 |
| Operator/passenger exceeds number OHV is designated to carry | $200 |
| Operate OHV without proper exhaust muffler | $57 |
| Exhaust muffler excessively noisy/produce flames/sparks | $57 |
| Operate OHV with widened exhaust muffler | $57 |
| Operate OHV with device attached to exhaust system/muffler increase noise/allow for ignition gases from engine/exhaust system | $57 |
| Operate OHV with muffler cut out/disconnected | $57 |
| Towing infractions including towed vehicle not following in tracks, unsafe towing, exceeding 1.83 metres in length, and hitch inadequate to prevent collision when traveling downhill. | $57 |
| Careless operation of OHV on any property, whether public entitled or privately owned | $400 |
| Failing to stop for a Peace Officer | $500 |

# Bylaw Guidelines

The following is an overview of Parkland County's Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Bylaw. For a copy of the complete Bylaw, contact the Community and Protective Services department or visit **parklandcounty.com.**

## At all times:

- OHV Operator must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid Class 5 Operator's License.
- Operator and passengers must wear helmets.
- The OHV must be insured and registered.
- OHVs must travel on the right hand side of the road, with traffic.
- Operation of OHVs is permitted between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- OHVs are prohibited on any land marked with signage, on environmental reserves, and on school property.
- OHVs must be equipped with a headlight and taillight and they must be lit at all times.
- The OHV must have a license plate that is securely attached and clearly visible.
- The OHV may only carry a passenger if it is designed to do so.
- The OHV must be equipped with a muffler that has not been modified.

## 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 30 km/hr.

## Range roads & township roads:

- OHVs are allowed on road surfaces and in ditches **except** along provincial highways or in ditches along provincial highways.
- The maximum speed while riding on a road surface is 50 km/hr.
- The maximum speed while riding in a ditch is 30 km/hr.