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Recreational Vehicle Safety Guidance

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Recreational Vehicle Safety Guidance

Requirements

All ATVs and snowmobiles used at the University must comply with the minimum equipment requirements for these vehicles as stated in applicable State Law. At the University, the minimum age for ATV/snowmobile operators is 18.

The State of Maine uses the term ‘recreational vehicle’ to describe a variety of motorized vehicles including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles. ATVs and snowmobiles can be used for non-recreational purposes and are utilized to accomplish a number of tasks at the University. The University is committed to ensuring the safety of employees, students, and visitors who use these vehicles to accomplish their job duties. All users of these vehicles at the University must follow the provisions of this policy and all other applicable laws and University policies.

- [Maine State Title 12 Chapter 933: General Recreational Vehicle Provisions](#)
- [Maine State Title 12 Chapter 937: Snowmobiles](#)
- [Maine State Title 12 Chapter 939: ATVs](#)
- [Maine ATV & Snowmobile Laws and Rules \(Dept. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife\)](#)

Protective Gear

Helmets- Helmets must be worn by both drivers and passengers of ATVs and snowmobiles. Helmets should fit snugly and be securely fastened and must comply with applicable State Law.

Clothing- Appropriate clothing is essential for rider protection. Long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toed shoes should be worn. Gloves, riding boots, and knee, chest, and shoulder protectors and other protective equipment should be considered depending on riding location, terrain, and environmental conditions.

Eye Protection- Eye protection (eye/face shield, goggles, or safety glasses) should be worn by both operators and passengers; prescription eyewear and/or sunglasses do not provide adequate protection. Eye protection should be:

- Certified as per [Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission \(VESC\) – V-8](#), Minimum Requirements for Motorcyclists’ Eye Protection or [ANSI/ISEA Z87.1](#)
- Free from scratches
- Securely fastened
- Well-ventilated to prevent fogging.

Pre-Ride Inspection

Operators must inspect the functional and mechanical condition of any ATV/snowmobile before each use. Follow manufacturer’s guidelines for pre-ride inspection of your vehicle. Common items to check include:

- Tires and Wheels
- Controls
- Lights and Switches
- Oil and Fuel
- Chain, Driveshaft, Chassis, Suspension

Responsibilities

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring employees, students, and visitors under their supervision receive appropriate training and comply with this policy.

Employees/operators are responsible for complying with this policy and ensuring the safe and prudent operation of ATVs and snowmobiles.

Training

All employees, students, and visitors must be trained in the general aspects of safe and proper ATV and/or snowmobile use prior to commencing operations. Additionally, operators must receive training on the specific vehicle to be used. Training may be provided by the department or obtained from a recognized training agency.