



## COVID-19

See our [COVID-19 response page <www.sgi.sk.ca/news?title=covid-19-response>](http://www.sgi.sk.ca/news?title=covid-19-response) for the latest details.



# ATV and snowmobile riders

---

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are designed for use on "off-road" surfaces such as dirt, mud, grass or gravel. Four-wheelers and tracked ATVs, mini-bikes, all-terrain cycles and dirt bikes are all examples of an ATV.

When you're riding an ATV on public land, there are certain rules that apply because ATVs are regulated by [The All Terrain Vehicles Act<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=369>](http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=369). These regulations don't apply if you're riding an ATV on private land that you or an immediate family member owns (or lives on), but being safe is still very important. For more information about the Act, call our Customer Service Centre toll free at 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744).

Snowmobiles are not considered an ATV and are only used on snow-packed surfaces. The safest place to ride a snowmobile is on groomed trails that are designated for snowmobiling.

The [Snowmobiling in Saskatchewan Handbook <www.sgi.sk.ca/documents/625510/626984/snowmobiling\\_in\\_sask.pdf/d6f67663-09c0-4b68-8ee7-35b9f8832544>](http://www.sgi.sk.ca/documents/625510/626984/snowmobiling_in_sask.pdf/d6f67663-09c0-4b68-8ee7-35b9f8832544) is a great resource to read over before you head out to hit the trails.

## ATVs

### Driving age

You must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's licence to drive an ATV on public land. If you don't have a driver's licence, there are some rules that apply before you can drive an ATV on public land and cross roads (but not drive on roads). You must:

- be 12 years of age or older; and,
- pass an approved ATV training course; OR,
- be supervised by someone who has held a driver's licence continuously for the last 365 days. Your supervising rider can either be riding a different ATV or be on the same ATV as you.

### Training courses

A safety course is a good idea for any new rider or an experienced rider who wants to refresh their skills. There are ATV instructors all over Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact:

#### **David Burnett, Chief Instructor**

306-384-8079 in Saskatoon

[burnett3@sasktel.net](mailto:burnett3@sasktel.net)

#### **Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association**

1-855-297-2882

[Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association website<http://www.satva.ca/>](http://www.satva.ca/)

#### **Saskatchewan Safety Council**

306-757-3197 in Regina

306-569-1907 (fax)

[Saskatchewan Safety Council website<http://www.sasksafety.org/>](http://www.sasksafety.org/)

#### **Ultimate ATV and Offroad Training**

306-533-9966

[kenmatechuk@hotmail.com](mailto:kenmatechuk@hotmail.com)

[kenmatechuk.com/training/<http://kenmatechuk.com/training/>](http://kenmatechuk.com/training/)

#### **Ride Rite Safety Training & Certification**

(306)441-3046

[riderite@sasktel.net](mailto:riderite@sasktel.net)

[www.riderite.ca/<http://www.riderite.ca/>](http://www.riderite.ca/)

## Registration and insurance

ATVs are not required to be registered. But, if you want to ride your ATV on public land, you need a minimum of \$200,000 in third party liability insurance. This covers you for damage or injury you (or whoever is riding your ATV) may cause to another person or their property. Talk to your insurance broker for more information about the types of coverage available.

## Safety gear

Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet and appropriate protective eye wear - it's the law when you're riding an ATV in public areas and recommended always.

## Traffic rules

Driving an ATV in a way that's dangerous to the public and failing to remain at a collision (hit and run) is illegal.

When you're riding an ATV on public land, there are some rules of the road you need to follow:

- keep to the right when approaching other vehicles
- pass other vehicles on the left
- signal turns when required
- stop for police
- yield to vehicles on your right and pedestrians
- maintain a safe following distance
- drive with due care and attention
- drive with consideration for other people
- maintain at least a 2-metre distance from the edge of the road
- travel in the same direction as traffic when driving at night

Before crossing a road:

- bring the ATV to a complete stop
- all passengers must get off the ATV
- yield to all other vehicles and pedestrians, then cross by the most direct route

## Unsafe practices

When you're driving an ATV, use a buddy system. And remember, don't carry a passenger if your ATV isn't built for it.

When driving an ATV, do not:

- drive at an unsafe speed or over the speed limit (maximum 80 km/h)
- drive in highway medians which are less than 50 metres in width
- drive at night if the headlight or rear lights are not working
- disturb, injure or kill wildlife
- drive animals or birds towards hunters

### Criminal Code offences

It's illegal to drive an ATV if you're impaired by alcohol or drugs, even on private property. It's also very dangerous for you, your passengers and other riders.

### Where to drive an ATV

You can drive an ATV on:

- Crown land and highway right of ways
- designated snowmobile trails on Crown land between April 16 and November 30 only (you can't ride on snowmobile trails between Dec. 1 and April 15)
- the travelled portion of a road or street, in the following circumstances:
  - on a road or street authorized by a local bylaw
  - on a road or street authorized by SGI
  - when crossing a road or bridge (unless prohibited by local bylaw or SGI)

To drive an ATV on private land, you need permission from the land owner or person living on the land.

### Exceptions

In some cases, SGI and/or your local municipality may not allow ATVs to be driven on:

- untraveled portions of highways (for example, ditches or medians)
- Crown land
- private or municipal land

Look for signs saying ATVs are allowed or restricted, or contact your local municipality to check.

## Snowmobiles

### Driving age

If you were born after January 1, 1989, and are at least 12 years old you can drive a snowmobile as long as you've taken a training program. If you were born before January 1, 1989, then a training course isn't mandatory. But even if you're an experienced snowmobile rider, taking a snowmobile safety course is always a great idea.

To find a safety course in your area, contact:

#### **Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association**

221 Centre Street

Box 533

Regina Beach, Sask, S0G 4C0

306-729-3500

1-800-499-7533

306-729-3505 (fax)

[sasksnow@sasktel.net](mailto:sasksnow@sasktel.net)

To take a snowmobile safety course online, visit [www.sasksnow.ca](http://www.sasksnow.ca) <<http://www.sasksnow.com/safety/>>.

## Registration and insurance

Your snowmobile must be registered if you plan to ride it on public land (e.g., roads, ditches, provincial parks, designated snowmobile trails, etc.). When you register your snowmobile, it includes \$200,000 in third party liability insurance. This covers you for damage or injury you (or whoever is riding your snowmobile) may cause to another person or their property (up to \$200,000). It doesn't include any damage or injury coverage for yourself. You can buy extra insurance to protect yourself or increase the amount of liability coverage you have. Talk to your insurance broker (for physical damage coverage and increased third-party liability coverage) and a life or disability insurer (for personal injury coverage).

## Safety gear

All snowmobile drivers and passengers must wear a helmet to protect themselves against serious injury. It's also important to wear proper clothing so you can handle the wind and cold.

### Helmets

When choosing a helmet, ensure that:

- it's approved and complies with the standards of BSI, CSA, DOT, SNELL, ECE or ANSI for snowmobile or motorcycle use
- it's large enough to fit comfortably over a balaclava
- it's secured properly with straps provided
- it has a full-face shield (if there's no shield, then you must wear goggles)

### Snowsuits

They should be windproof and waterproof with zipper flaps, quality insulation, storm cuffs, a knitted collar and inner leg liners, which should fit tightly at the boots.

### Protective goggles (in case your helmet has no shield)

Tinted grey or green lenses work well for bright days. Amber or yellow lenses are good for overcast or late afternoon. These lenses can reveal dangerous depressions in the snow and protect your eyes from branches, twigs and other objects.

### Mitts and gloves

You should wear warm, windproof mitts or gloves that fit tightly at the wrist or overlap the sleeves of your snowsuit.

### Boots and socks

Wear a good pair of winter boots with a rubber bottom, leather or nylon cover and felt liners, and use wool socks.

## Traffic rules

Like any vehicle, snowmobile drivers must obey traffic rules, including:

- traffic signs and lights regulating traffic on, approaching or leaving highways
- trail signs, markers and directional signs
- following at a reasonable and safe distance
- driving with due care and attention with consideration for other people and property
- never driving faster than 80 km/h or the posted speed limit, including the speed limit posted on designated snowmobile trails
- never riding after drinking alcohol or taking drugs
- yielding the right of way:
  - keep to the right when approaching other vehicles, including snowmobiles
  - yield to all vehicles when approaching from the right
  - keep clear of the other vehicle when passing

### Driving with passengers

Since snowmobiles handle differently with a full load, you should also take extra care when carrying passengers:

- use only machines designed for that purpose
- make sure your passenger wears a helmet and proper clothing
- make sure your passenger uses handle grips or a passenger strap and keeps their feet on the running boards
- warn your passenger of approaching hazards, rough terrain or unusual conditions
- teach your passenger to lean into curves, hills and turns

### Driving responsibly

Snowmobiling may be fun, but it also leads to several deaths and injuries in Saskatchewan. Risky behaviour, speed, impairment and unfamiliarity with the terrain or the machine are major factors in deaths and injuries.

Please remember:

- Alcohol and drugs impair judgment and dull the senses, leading to poor decisions and a slower reaction time.
- An irresponsible attitude that rules should not apply on private land results in risky behaviour such as speeding, driving or passing on the wrong side, disregarding warning signs, etc.

- Avoid unsafe practices, such as riding at night in unfamiliar areas, crossing lakes and rivers or overdriving your vision/headlights.

#### Night riding

Because snowmobile crashes often happen at night, take special care when riding at night. Please keep the following information in mind:

- make sure your headlight and taillight are working
- reduce your speed
- avoid unfamiliar terrain, especially lakes and streams
- carry a flashlight or a flare
- don't ride alone
- ride in the same direction as nearby road traffic
- wear reflective clothing

© 2022 SGI. All rights reserved.