

# Off-Road Vehicle Safety Tips



## When You Ride the Trail, Put Safety First!

### Think ahead.

Ask your local dealer about the laws and regulations in your area. Do your best to preserve the areas where you ride, and be sure that you only ride where off-road vehicles are permitted. Read your owner's manual. Then make sure you take your manual, a small tool kit and essential spare parts with you whenever you ride.

### Gear up.

For optimum protection in case of an accident, always wear a DOT-approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, a sturdy jacket, long pants, over-the-ankle boots and gloves.

### Practice.

Find a safe place to practice braking, turning and improving your reaction time to help improve your skills and make you a better – and safer – rider.

### Learn more.

Improve your riding skills by taking a training course. Make sure your vehicle is properly licensed or registered. Choose a vehicle that is appropriate for your age and ability.

### Stay off paved roads.

Remember that off-road vehicles are meant for operation *off pavement and public roads*. These surfaces may not only be illegal, but dangerous. Your off-road vehicle may be difficult to control on pavement, which could result in an accident.

### Maintain control and stay sharp.

Keep your speed right for the conditions and your experience. Be aware of current terrain, visibility and weather conditions, potential hazards or obstacles. Ride only when your senses are sharp. Never do drugs or drink and then ride.

### Check it out.

Be sure to check that your off-road vehicle is running properly before hitting the trail. Always check controls, lights, fuel and oil levels, switches, chain, driveshaft, tires and chassis before you head out. Follow the recommended service schedule for your off-road vehicle and be sure an authorized service provider makes all repairs.

### Go it alone.

Never carry a passenger on your off-road vehicle unless the vehicle is designed with an appropriate passenger seat. Additional weight can greatly affect the handling of your off-road vehicle and potentially cause loss of control. It's a good idea to take a buddy along, only on their own vehicle.

### Know you're protected.

Be sure you have proper insurance coverage to protect your vehicle and provide liability coverage in case someone gets injured or property is damaged during the use of your vehicle.

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