

WHERE TO RIDE

To find a list of State Parks and Forests that allow OHV operation visit:

www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/orv.htm

OHV use is permitted only on designated trails, which are marked with trailhead signage and orange or yellow trail blazes. There are specific riding seasons and conditions that determine when trail use is permitted. To be sure the trails are open, call ahead.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR): (617) 626-1250



OHV PROGRAM FUND

Your recreation vehicle registration revenues are directed to supporting safer operation and improved opportunities for enjoying recreation vehicles. Administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the fund provides financial resources for increased enforcement, improved rider education, and the development and improvement of designated recreation trails in Massachusetts. An Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee made up of recreation vehicle users and other stakeholders advises the agencies responsible for managing recreation vehicle use on the allocation of OHV program funds as well as policies and regulations related to recreation vehicle use.

OHV EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Starting February 1, 2011, an approved recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course is required for operators under the age of 18. There will be one mandatory session that a parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 must attend. Proof of successful completion of the course must be in the operator's possession.

To find out more about educational requirements please visit:

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/boatrvsafe.htm

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

ANY persons operating, riding in or on or being towed by a recreation or snow vehicle shall wear a DOT approved helmet.

Each recreation vehicle must also be equipped with:

- An adequate braking system.
- An adequate muffler designed to reduce unusual or excessive noise (below 96 dbA) and noxious fumes.
- One or more headlights, a red rear light and a red rear reflector (after sunset, lights must be displayed).
- An attached trailer must have a red rear reflector.



"Promoting Safety through Education"



Massachusetts Environmental Police

www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dle

An Agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Law Enforcement: (800) 632-8075

Safety Bureau: (508) 564-4961

This is only a summary of the recreation vehicle laws, which are subject to change. You must know and observe all local, state, and federal laws. For further information contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

Revised: 04/03/2012

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau



OFF-HIGHWAY, RECREATION VEHICLE, AND SNOWMOBILE UPDATE

Legislation signed in August of 2010 (Ch. 202 of the Acts of 2010) brings significant changes to Massachusetts Recreation Vehicle Laws. Among the new provisions are educational requirements for young riders, age restrictions for operators of ATVs and UTV's, increased penalties for illegal use and the establishment of an OHV program fund to support improved riding opportunities and law enforcement. This brochure provides a brief overview of the substantive change to MGL c.90B as it pertains to recreation and snow vehicles. These are not the complete laws and regulations pertaining to OHV operation in Massachusetts.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

No person between 14 -16 years of age shall operate an all-terrain vehicle or a recreation utility vehicle with an engine capacity greater than 90 cubic centimeters. When operating such vehicles 90 cubic centimeters or less, persons between 14-16 years of age must be directly supervised by a person 18 years of age or older.

A person between the ages of 10 and 14 may only operate a recreation vehicle while directly supervised in preparation for, or while a participant in, a supervised and sanctioned race, rally, or organized event approved by a municipal permitting authority. If operating an ATV or RUV, said person is limited to a vehicle 90 cubic centimeters or less.

A person under 10 years of age may only operate an age and size appropriate dirt bike while directly supervised in preparation for, or while a participant in, a supervised and sanctioned race, rally, or organized event. When preparing for such event, operation by a person under 10 is limited to private property.

A person under 10 years of age may operate an age and size appropriate snow vehicle while directly supervised on land on which the operator is domiciled, but in no circumstance with a stock engine capacity greater than 150 cubic centimeters.

No person under the age of 16 ½ shall operate a recreation vehicle across a public way unless **directly** supervised by a person 18 years of age or older. The public way and the crossing must be marked and approved for recreation vehicle use.

No person under 18 years of age shall operate recreation vehicles (including, but not limited to: ATV's, RUV's, and dirt bikes) unless they have successfully completed a MEP approved OHV Safety & Responsibility course. Operators under 18 years of age must have on their person and be able to produce an MEP issued OHV Safety certificate when operating.

REGISTRATION

Recreation vehicles operated on public or private property must be registered through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Recreation vehicles used **exclusively** for agricultural, forestry, lumbering, or construction purposes are exempt from the registration fee requirement.

Registration must be in operator's possession, and assigned registration number shall be displayed on the vehicle and not obstructed. Out of state registrations are not valid in Massachusetts.

A valid registration is not a right to trespass. Landowner permission is required.

Registration Offices:

Boston
251 Causeway St.
(617) 626-1610

Worcester
67 Millbrook Street
(508) 753-0603

Fall River
218 S. Main St.
(508) 679-8287

Hyannis
60 Perseverance Way
(508) 771-8382

Springfield
165 Liberty St.
(413) 733-1642

PROHIBITED OPERATION

Operating under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Operating across a public way, unless it is marked and approved for recreation vehicles.

Operating on unapproved public ways or upon or across a controlled access highway.

Failure to come to a complete stop when crossing an approved public way (must yield to traffic).

Operating to endanger or at speeds that are unsafe for conditions.

Operating a snow or recreation vehicle in a manner that causes damage to public or private property, including lands owned or managed by DCR, DFW, wetlands or other waters of the Commonwealth including lands used for public water supply purposes or historic or archaeological sites.

Operating a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle in a reforested or planted area in a manner that causes damage to growing stock.

Operating a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle on an ocean beach or sand dune in a manner so as to destroy, damage or breakdown any beach, dune or dune grass.

Operating on land of another without written permission of the owner.

Operating within 150 feet of an occupied residence without permission of the owner.

No person having control of a snow or recreation vehicle shall refuse to stop after having been requested or signaled to do so by a

law enforcement officer. No person shall refuse to give their correct name, address and registration number to such officer.

Operating in a manner to harass or chase wildlife or domestic animals.

Operating a snow or recreation vehicle which emits noxious fumes or makes excessive noise.

Operating with a loaded firearm, rifle, or shotgun.

DRIVING INTOXICATED

Operating an OHV under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will result in fines, driver's license restrictions, suspensions or penalties, and impoundment of the off-highway vehicle.

ACCIDENTS

The operator or owner of a recreation vehicle involved in a collision, accident or other such casualty resulting in death or injury to a person or damage to property in excess of \$50 shall notify a law enforcement officer immediately and file a written report of the incident with the Massachusetts Environmental Police within 48 hours.

There are new penalties and fines for:

- Operating recklessly or negligently so lives or safety of the public might be endangered.
- Leaving the scene without stopping and making known his name, address and registration number after colliding with or causing injury to an operator, property, or another recreation vehicle.
- Operating recklessly or negligently and causing serious injury or death by such operation.