ATVs and snowmobiles have been increasing in popularity over the past decade. As trails and recreation areas become more crowded, it’s more important than ever for people to operate these vehicles safely and responsibly.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to Indiana laws governing ATVs and snowmobiles and to provide basic information about the safe operation of these vehicles. This handbook is not intended as a substitute for the owner’s manual that came with your vehicle.

ABATE of Indiana
registration.abateonline.org
American Motorcyclist Association (AMA)
www.ama-cycle.org
Indiana Snowmobile Association
www.indianasnowmobilers.com
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
www.snowmobile.org
American Council of Snowmobile Associations
www.snowmobilers.org
American Trails
www.americantrails.org

ATV Safety Institute
www.atvsafety.org
FHWA Recreational Trails Program
www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/
MSF Dirt Bike School
www.dirtbikeschool.com
Tread Lightly!
www.treadlightly.org
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)
www.nohvcc.org

- The snowmobile trails are open in December, January, February, and March when snow conditions are adequate and the trails are posted as “open.”
- Trail conditions are reported on the Indiana Snowmobile Association website: www.isatrailconditions.info
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Publication funding assistance provided by Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program (RTP).
Except where noted, the laws below apply to all off-road vehicles (ORVs), which includes both all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles.

**Registering Your ORV**  
IC 9-18-2.5-3; IC 9-18-2.5-4; IC 9-18-2.5-6; IC 9-18-2.5-7.

- If you operate an ORV on public property, it must be registered. The only exception is a vehicle that is properly registered in another state and operated by a resident of that state.
- All ORVs purchased after December 31, 2003, must be registered.
- Registration is $30 for three years.
- Registration can be completed at all Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) license branches. Online registration is also available at MyBMV (www.in.gov/bmv) for ORVs that are properly titled or are not required to be titled, and for most snowmobiles.
- Upon approval of the application, the BMV will issue two registration decals and a Certificate of Registration containing the vehicle number.
- The pocket-sized Certificate of Registration must be carried on the vehicle and made available for inspection by law enforcement officers.
- A bill of sale will serve in lieu of the Certificate of Registration for 31 days from the purchase date.
- Registration decals must be attached to both sides of the forward half of the vehicle.
- All decals must be maintained in a legible condition, and expired decals must be removed from the vehicle.
- If your ORV is currently registered and you wish to renew, you may do so online.
Other Facts About Registration  IC 9-18-2.5-10; IC 9-18-2.5-12

- If a Certificate of Registration is lost, mutilated, or illegible, the owner of the vehicle may purchase a duplicate from the BMV for a fee.
- A person may not operate a vehicle with an altered, defaced, or obliterated vehicle number.

Buying and Selling an ORV  IC 9-17-2; IC 9-18-2.5-5; IC 9-18-2.5-8; IC 9-18-2.5-9

- A person who buys a registered ORV must apply within 15 days from the date of purchase to transfer the Certificate of Registration to his or her name.
- If the application is not made within 15 days, the person may not operate the ORV until a certificate is issued.
- ORVs that are less than five model years old must be titled with BMV.

Operating on Highways and Roads  IC-14-16-1-20

- An ORV may be ridden on the public right-of-way adjacent to a public highway, except a limited access highway, when there is sufficient width to do so without endangering life or property.
- You may cross a public highway, other than a limited access highway, at a 90-degree angle to get from one area to another. To do so, you must:
  - Bring your vehicle to a complete stop before crossing and …
  - Yield to all traffic.
- Cities, towns, and counties have individual laws pertaining to ORVs. Check these before riding.
- An ORV may be operated on a road or highway for a special event after obtaining a permit.
Operating on Public Property  IC-14-16-1-27

■ An ORV may not be ridden on public property without the consent of the state or an agency of the state.

■ An ORV may not be ridden in a U.S. forest without the consent of the U.S. Forest Service.

Understanding Operator Requirements  IC-14-16-1-20

■ Persons under 14 years of age may operate an ORV only if:
  • They are supervised by a person who is at least 18 years of age or …
  • They are operating on property owned or controlled by the person’s parent or guardian.

■ A person may not operate an ORV on a public highway without a valid motor vehicle driver’s license.

Meeting ORV Safety Equipment Regulations  IC-14-16-1-21

■ An ORV may not be operated between sunset and sunrise without at least one headlight and one taillight.

■ An ORV may not be operated at any time unless it has brakes capable of slowing the ORV at a rate of 14 feet per second when operating on level ground at an initial speed of 20 miles per hour.

Operating Your ORV Legally  IC-14-16-1-23

An individual may not operate an ORV under any of these conditions:

■ While under the influence of alcohol, a narcotic, or other drug

■ At a rate of speed greater than is reasonable or in a manner that endangers a person or property

■ At a speed exceeding five miles per hour on ice covering public waters when within 100 feet of an individual on foot or within 100 feet of a fishing shanty

■ Within 100 feet of a dwelling between midnight and 6 a.m., except on your own property or as a guest on another person’s property
■ Within 100 feet of a slide, ski, or skating area
■ Without a lighted headlight and taillight when operating between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise
■ Without a muffler in good working condition
■ In a forest nursery, planting area, or public land where growing plants or animals may be damaged
■ On any property without the consent of the landowner or tenant
■ On a railroad track or its right-of-way
■ In or on a flowing river, stream, or creek, except for the purpose of crossing by the shortest possible route
■ On or across a cemetery or burial ground
■ When carrying a bow with an arrow nocked
■ While transporting a firearm on or in the ORV unless the firearm is:
  • Unloaded and …
  • Securely encased or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured keylocked trigger-housing mechanism

Responding Appropriately After an Accident
IC-14-16-1-24
An operator of an ORV involved in an accident must notify the nearest law enforcement authorities as quickly as possible if the accident resulted in:
■ Serious injury or death of person or …
■ Estimated property damage of $750 or more.

Obeying Law Enforcement Officers IC-14-16-1-25
All Indiana law enforcement officers will enforce the ORV regulations.

Off-Road Vehicle and Snowmobile Fund
IC-14-16-1-30
Registration and related fees for ORVs and snowmobiles are deposited in the Off-Road Vehicle and Snowmobile Fund, which is used for the enforcement, construction, and maintenance of off-road and snowmobile trails. The fund is administered by the Department of Natural Resources.
Getting To Know Your All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

An ATV is not a toy. It’s a vehicle built primarily for off-road recreation. ATVs can provide hours of safe, enjoyable off-road riding. But ATVs also can be dangerous if you don’t understand your vehicle or know proper riding procedures.

- Because there are different types of ATVs and each has its own handling characteristics, it’s important for you to study your owner’s manual and understand how to operate your particular vehicle. For example, most ATVs have front and rear brakes, but some have linked brakes. You need to know the correct braking techniques for your vehicle.

- ATVs also use different transmissions, shifting mechanisms, throttle mechanisms, starting mechanisms, cooling systems, and axle designs.

- Controls and their locations also differ from one model to another. Learn to find each control without looking at it.

Above all, remember these facts:

- ATVs are designed primarily for off-road use.

- Operating an ATV on paved surfaces can be hazardous because of handling issues.

- Riding on paved roads is a leading cause of ATV-related fatalities.

- Only carry a passenger if your machine is designed by the manufacturer to carry another person; most are not.
Learning the Common ATV Parts

- Front Brake
- Clutch
- Rack
- Footrest
- Spark Arrestor/Muffler
- Engine
- Fuel Cap
- Stop Switch
- Shifter
- Throttle
- Choke/Primer (Under Seat)
- Headlight Switch
- Ignition Switch (On Body)
- Front Differential Control
- Rear Brake

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Using Protective Clothing and Gear

By definition, off-road riding means “rugged,” so you should always wear clothing that combines protection and comfort.

Never operate an ATV without these essential items:

- **ATV helmet**
  - Helps prevent serious head injury.
  - Should fit snugly and fasten securely.
  - May be a full-face helmet or an open-face helmet plus eye protection.
  - Add a stripe of reflective tape to make you more visible at night.
  - Must be a U.S. Department of Transportation–approved crash helmet.

- **Goggles or other eye protection**
  - Be aware that branches, road debris, and insects can hit your eyes and distract or even blind you.
  - Do not use sunglasses, which do not provide adequate protection. Use goggles or a face shield.
  - Choose high-impact eye protection that bears the marking VESC8 (or V-8) or Z87.1 or is made of hard-coated polycarbonate.
  - Carry gray-tinted eye protection for bright days, yellow-tinted for overcast days, and clear for night rides.
  - Make sure your eye protection is scratch-free, securely fastened, and well-ventilated to avoid fogging.

- **Gloves**
  - Keep your hands warm in cold weather.
  - Prevent soreness and fatigue.
  - Offer protection during a spill or collision with branches.
  - Should be padded over the knuckles for the best protection.

- **Boots**
  - Heels prevent your feet from slipping off footrests.
  - Off-road boots are best, protecting lower legs, ankles, and feet.
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirt or jacket
  - Protect your skin from scratches.
  - Provide the best protection with off-road riding gear that includes:
    - Pants with kneepads
    - Chest and shoulder protectors

Cold Weather Riding
In cold weather, clothing that works well for snowmobile riders is also ideal for most ATV enthusiasts.
- Clothing should fit snugly and still be comfortable.
- Clothing that’s too loose can snag on your vehicle, twigs, and branches.
Inspecting Your ATV Before You Ride

Nothing spoils an outing faster than mechanical problems. In some cases, malfunctioning equipment also can cause injuries.

- Set the parking brake.
- Consult your owner’s manual for items that may need to be lubricated, tightened, adjusted, aligned, or checked for wear.

Tires

ATV tires take a lot of punishment, so maintaining the correct tire pressure is critical.

- Consult your owner’s manual for the recommended pressure.
- Check the tire pressure before each trip. Over- or under-inflated tires:
  - Can result in tire or wheel damage.
  - May change the handling characteristics of your ATV.
- Use a low-pressure gauge because ATV tire pressure is too low for standard auto tire gauges to read accurately.
- Be sure all tires have the same pressure. Otherwise, vehicles may pull left or right.
- Check for damage that could cause an air leak.

Key items include:

- Wheels and lugnuts
- Throttle
- Foot shifter
- Brakes
- Air Filter
- Drive chain or drive shaft
- Steering system
- Spark plugs
- Lights
- Engine stop switch
- Spark arrestor/muffler
Routine Maintenance

Off-road riding puts a strain on your ATV, so it’s important to perform the scheduled maintenance recommended in your owner’s manual. You can avoid a breakdown and possible injury.

Registering Your ATV IC 9-18-2.5-4; IC 9-18-2.5-7

- Your vehicle isn’t ready to ride unless it has an up-to-date registration decal attached to both sides of the forward half of the machine.
- You also must carry a pocket-sized registration certificate with you whenever you ride.

Additional Gear

- Mechanical problems can occur at any time, so it’s wise to carry the tool kit and owner’s manual that came with your ATV.
- In addition, you should carry some spare parts and emergency items:
  - Cell phone
  - Extra spark plugs—worn plugs are the number one cause of engine stalling
  - Headlight and taillight bulbs
  - Electrical and duct tape
  - Flashlight
  - Knife
  - First-aid kit
  - Sturdy tow rope or chain
- For longer trips, see “What to Bring Along” on page 30.
Before you do any serious off-road riding, you need to find a safe, unchallenging location where you can practice riding your new ATV and get comfortable operating it. The location should be large, open, flat, and free of hazards.

**Starting the Engine**
First, consult your owner’s manual. Typically, you will:

- Point the ATV in a safe direction.
- Put the transmission in neutral or park.
- Set the parking brake.
- Turn on the fuel valve.
- Make sure that the engine stop switch is in the “run” or “on” position.
- Put the choke in the “on” position if the engine is cold.
- Start the engine.

**Adjusting Your Posture**
- To make sure you can shift your weight quickly when necessary and reach the controls easily, always maintain proper posture:
  - Head up and eyes looking far ahead
  - Hands on the handlebars
  - Feet on the footrests, toes pointing straight ahead
- Removing one hand or foot can reduce your ability to control the ATV or could cause you to lose your balance and fall off.
- Removing your feet from the footrests or dragging your feet on the ground can result in serious injury if your feet get under the rear wheels.
Starting Off
After the engine is warmed up:
- Apply the hand brake.
- Release the parking brake.
- Shift into gear.
- Release the hand brake and apply the throttle slowly.

Shifting Gears
- The three general types of transmissions are manual, automatic, and semi-automatic.
- Consult your owner’s manual for correct shifting procedures.

Braking
- The proper braking method depends on whether your ATV has brakes in the front, rear, or both.
- Consult your owner’s manual for correct braking procedures.
Using Correct Riding Techniques

**Turning**
Consult your owner’s manual for information on turning your ATV. In general, you should:
- Turn at low to medium speeds.
- Move forward on the seat and lean in the direction of the turn.
- Turn the handlebars while looking where you are turning.
- Speed up slightly as you come out of the turn.
- If an ORV starts to tip, lean your body farther into the turn and gradually reduce your speed.

**Riding Uphill**
- Climbing hills can be dangerous if you don’t follow the proper procedures as described in your owner’s manual. You could lose control of your ATV, or it could overturn.
- In general, you should:
  - Use good judgment. If the hill looks too steep for your ATV or your abilities, it probably is.
  - Start the climb by shifting into a lower gear.
  - Speed up to maintain momentum.
• Move up on the seat and lean forward, or stand and position your torso over the front wheels.
• Keep your weight uphill and your feet on the footrests.

If you can’t see what is on or over the crest of a hill, slow down until you have a clear view.

Riding Downhill

Always carefully check the terrain before you start down any hill. Choose a downhill path that is as straight as possible with a minimum of obstacles.

When going downhill, remember to:
• Shift your weight to the rear.
• Maintain a low speed.
• Use a lower gear.
• Brake gradually.
• Look ahead.

Traversing a Slope

You may encounter hills that are too steep to ascend or descend in a straight line. In that case, you may be able to drive across, or traverse, the slope at an angle. However, don’t attempt to traverse a slope with surfaces that are extremely slippery, rough, or loose.

When traversing, be sure to:
• Keep both feet firmly on the footrests.
• Lean your upper body uphill.
• Keep your speed steady.
**Reading and Traversing Terrain**
To ride safely, you need to be able to assess the terrain ahead of you and understand the capabilities of your machine.

- Stay on existing trails. Avoid dangerous terrain such as steep slopes, marshes, and swamps. Also, keep an eye out for large holes, ruts, bumps, debris, and other obstacles.
- Travel at speeds appropriate for the terrain, visibility, operating conditions, and your ability.
- Constantly scan the path ahead of you to pick the safest route around obstacles or hazards.
- Carefully approach hills, turns, and other obstacles.
- Be especially alert when traveling over unfamiliar terrain.

**Riding on Different Types of Terrain**

**Mud and Water** 1C-14-16-1-23(a)(13)

- ATVs are designed to ride through shallow water and mud, but they also can damage the environment.
- It is illegal to ride an ATV in a creek or stream.

**Snow** 312 IAC 7-1-3

ATVs and all other wheeled vehicles are prohibited from using state snowmobile trails unless designated for ATV use.

- Ride only on firm snow or groomed trails where permitted by law. Riding on soft snow can damage the terrain.
- Watch for snowdrifts. They may cause an accident or cause you to get stuck.
Trails 312 IAC 8-2-8

- An ORV may not be operated on DNR property except on a trail designated for the purpose.
- Mount an antenna flag on your ATV so others can see you.
- Avoid riding on vegetation or wet sand.

Crossing Roads and Highways IC-14-16-1-20; IC-14-16-1-23

- Because ATVs are designed for off-road use, they can be difficult to handle on paved surfaces. Riding on or crossing a road illegally or improperly is a leading cause of ATV rider fatalities.

- If you must cross a road, follow this safe procedure.
  - Stop at a right angle to the road.
  - Pick a crossing point where you have good visibility in both directions.
  - Bring your vehicle to a complete stop on the shoulder of the road.
  - Look both ways, and yield to oncoming traffic.
  - Proceed forward slowly because your ORV may be difficult to maneuver on pavement.
- Drive straight across the road.

Safety Tips

- Don’t ride alone.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Don’t drive tired.

If You Have an Accident IC-14-16-1-24

You are required by law to report immediately any accident you are involved in that results in serious injury or death, or more than $750 in damages. Use the quickest means of communication, and notify at least one of the following: conservation officer, sheriff’s office, police department of the municipality where the accident occurred, or the state police.
Note to Parents: Is Your Child Ready to Ride?

IC-14-16-1-20

By Indiana law, a person must be at least 14 years old to ride an ATV unsupervised. If your child meets the age requirement, it’s your job to assess whether he or she is truly ready to ride. To make an informed decision, you must consider several factors.

- **Physical Development:** Can your youngster sit comfortably on the ATV and reach the controls easily?
- **Motor Skills:** Is your child’s coordination adequate for the challenge of riding an ATV?
- **Visual Perception:** Does your child have good depth perception, peripheral vision, and the ability to judge distances?
- **Social/Emotional Maturity:** Will your youngster understand the risks involved in riding an ATV, make good decisions to avoid accidents, and drive responsibly?

**Age and Engine Size**

For your child’s safety and comfort, you must match your child with an ATV engine size that is appropriate for his or her age group:

- Ages 6-11: Under 70cc
- Ages 12-15: 70 to 90cc
- Ages 16 and older: Over 90cc
Your Role as a Parent

- You will be your child’s teacher and safety advisor, so you must be familiar with your youngster’s ATV. You will need to know the controls, handling characteristics, maintenance requirements, and proper riding techniques.
- Supervise your child during riding practice, and encourage good riding habits and appropriate behavior.
Know Your Snowmobile

A snowmobile is a recreational vehicle designed to travel over ice or snow. It has sled-type runners or skis on the front end and a tractor-like belt tread in the rear.

Snowmobiling can be a fun and safe sport; however, it can be hazardous if you’re reckless, inattentive, or uneducated about the snowmobile you’re driving.

A safe snowmobiler:

• Understands the mechanics of the machine.
• Has respect for its capabilities and its limitations.
• Knows how to maneuver through a variety of operating conditions.
• Knows the laws governing snowmobiles.
• Uses good judgment.
• Respects others and the environment.

A safe snowmobiler also seeks out equipment with the Label of Certification from the Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee.

Pre-Season Checkup and Maintenance

It’s a good idea to give your snowmobile a checkup before the season starts so that problems can be fixed before they interfere with your enjoyment. Consult your owner’s manual for items that may need to be lubricated, tightened, adjusted, aligned, or checked for wear.

In addition to the checkup, be sure to perform all recommended maintenance.
Key items include:

- Brakes
- Clutch
- Drive belt
- Fuel filter
- Lights
- Skis
- Spark plugs
- Steering system
- Track

Common Snowmobile Parts

Proof of Registration  IC 9-18-2.5-4; IC 9-18-2.5-7

- Your snowmobile isn’t ready to ride unless it has an up-to-date registration decal attached to both sides of the forward half of the machine.
- You also must carry a pocket-size registration card with you whenever you ride.
Essential Gear

- Mechanical problems can occur at any time, so it’s wise to carry the tool kit and owner’s manual that came with your vehicle. In addition, you should carry some spare parts and emergency items.

- For longer trips, see “What to Bring Along” on page 30.

Dressing for Cold Weather

As with any outdoor winter recreation, you need clothing that will keep you warm and dry.

- Remember that the “wind chill factor” can lower your temperature considerably. If the thermometer reads 30°F and you ride at 25 miles an hour, your exposed skin feels a wind chill temperature of 0°F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Wind Speed in MPH</th>
<th>Equivalent Temperature (°F)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Dress in layers, and wear gloves and a warm head covering under your helmet. Gloves with gauntlets will keep cold air from blowing up your sleeves.

- Do not wear:

  - A scarf or loose clothing, which can get caught in the moving parts of your snowmobile or in branches and bushes
  - A bubble-type face guard, which may frost up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Customary Wind Chill Chart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Thermometer Reading (°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
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<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

![Estimated Wind Speed in MPH](https://www.kalkomey.com)

**LITTLE DANGER*** (for properly clothed person)

**INCREASED DANGER*** (for properly clothed person)

**GREAT DANGER*** (for properly clothed person)

- *DANGER FROM FREEZING OF EXPOSED FLESH

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**Snowmobile (and ATV) Suit**

The ideal winter outfit for both snowmobilers and ATV riders is a snowmobile suit. In addition to keeping you warm, a snowmobile suit will keep you afloat if you fall into freezing water. Because it traps air, it acts like a flotation device. Some suits also have flotation material sewn into the lining, and others have special air pockets that you can inflate by blowing into a tube.

- Clothing should fit snugly and still be comfortable.
- Clothing that’s too loose can snag on your vehicle, twigs, and branches.
Starting Safely

- Before you start, check the fuel and oil levels, brakes and lights, emergency stop switch, and track.

- When you start your snowmobile:
  - Point the machine in a safe direction.
  - Position yourself to control the machine when it starts.
  - Check the throttle to make sure it’s not frozen—it should snap back to the idle position when released.
  - Set the key and the engine stop switch to the “on” position.
  - If your machine is cold, choke or prime it.
  - If you have an electric starter, turn the key and release the choke as soon as the engine starts.
  - If your machine has a reverse gear, be sure the snowmobile is in a forward gear when you start off.

Basic Riding Positions

- **Sitting**: The most common and safest position.

- **Kneeling**: A good position for resting your body at low speeds. It provides some mobility to adjust your weight.
■ **Standing:** Only to be used when you need to see above obstructions ahead, such as when traveling through trees.

■ **Posting:** Crouching position that allows you to absorb shocks when traveling over uneven terrain.

---

**Basic Riding Techniques**

■ **Riding Uphill:** Lean forward on the machine, preferably in a kneeling position. Apply enough speed to reach the top and don’t stop until you arrive at the crest; otherwise, you might get stuck.

■ **Riding Downhill:** The greatest hazard is loss of control. Stay in the sitting position and pump the brake to stop the machine. Keep the clutch engaged.

■ **Traversing a Hill:** This can be difficult on hard-packed snow. Use the kneeling position. Put pressure on the uphill side of the track by leaning into the hill.

■ **Turning:** Lean into turns to gain more control while turning. Placing more body weight forward and into the turn puts more load on the inside ski and keeps it down on the snow, giving it a better bite.

■ **Stopping:** Pull over to the extreme right. Get off on the right side. Don’t stop on a curve or hill.
Crossing a Road: Select a crossing point that offers good visibility in both directions. Before crossing, come to a complete stop on the shoulder of the road. Look both ways and yield to any traffic on the road. Drive forward slowly because your snowmobile may be difficult to maneuver on pavement. Drive straight across, not at an angle, to minimize the distance you need to travel.

Handling Special Situations

Deep Snow
You need more power to operate in deep, fluffy snow than on hard-packed snow because your vehicle sinks deeper. Turn in a wide arc, and look for a firmer base.

Hard-Packed Snowdrifts
Hard-packed snow presents problems in drifted areas where the packed snow isn’t uniform. Unexpected bumps and dips can cause back injuries, especially at higher speeds. Travel cautiously in these areas, reducing speed.

Ice
- Ice is as hard as pavement and requires extreme caution. Spins are common, and fast stops are impossible.
- Use a slow, steady speed. To stop, let up on the throttle and allow the machine to coast to a stop.

Be Sure the Ice Is Thick Enough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Minimum Thickness Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking, Skiing, Fishing</td>
<td>4&quot; (10 cm) Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile or ATV</td>
<td>5&quot; (12 cm) Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile or Light Pickup</td>
<td>8-12&quot; (20-30 cm) Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUV or Medium Pickup</td>
<td>12-15&quot; (30-38 cm) Thick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Safety Tips
- Don’t ride alone.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs which impair key functions.
- Don’t drive tired.

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If You Get Stuck in the Snow

Don’t attempt to lift your machine out by yourself. In some cases, people have had heart attacks from the strain. Instead, try one of these three methods.

- Use a rope to pull out the machine.
- Tramp down the snow in front of the machine, “rock” it free, and drive forward.
- If the two methods above fail, ask someone to help you lift your machine out of its hole.

Carrying a Passenger or Towing

- Only carry a passenger if your machine is designed to carry another person; most are not.
- When towing, use a rigid tow bar, which will prevent the sled from crashing into you if you stop suddenly.

If You Have an Accident IC-14-16-1-24

You are required by law to report immediately any accident you are involved in that results in serious injury or death, or more than $750 in damages.

Hand Signals

Traveling in a group requires communication. Make sure you and everyone in your group understand basic hand signals.
Be Prepared

- Anytime you venture into off-road terrain, some risk is involved. You could become stranded because of mechanical problems; caught in unexpected, severe weather; or injured or lost.
- Environment characteristics, such as rough terrain, climate extremes, and remoteness, also increase the chance of accidents.

What to Bring Along

- **Map and Compass**: Topographic maps provide the most useful information for navigating terrain because they show the area in three dimensions. Purchase a good orienteering compass, and learn how to use it with a topographic map.
- **First-Aid Kit**: Carry a well-stocked first-aid kit, and take a first-aid course so that you’ll know how to respond in an emergency.
- **Survival Kit**: In addition to the items listed above, you should carry:
  - Candy bars (or other high-energy food)
  - Emergency food and water (enough for one or two extra days)
  - Flashlight
  - Hand axe or saw
  - Signal flares
  - Tarpaulin
  - Waterproof matches

Before You Leave ...

Tell someone where and with whom you are riding and when you will be back.
Other useful items:
• Radio to listen for storm warnings
• Mobile phone and a GPS unit

Observing the Code of Safety
■ Be sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition.
■ Familiarize yourself with your vehicle by reading your owner's manual.
■ Wear protective clothing suitable for the environment.
■ Use a helmet, goggles, or face shield to prevent injuries from twigs and road debris.
■ Make sure the light system works properly.
■ Don’t remove the factory-installed air box or muffler.
■ Know the terrain where you plan to ride.
■ Be aware of the weather forecast, especially ice and snow conditions.
■ Respect people and animals you encounter.
■ Never venture out alone.

Using Courteous Trail Etiquette
■ Ride only where permitted.
■ Be considerate of others on the trail, and keep to the right.
■ Always yield to uphill traffic.
■ Slow down when someone is passing you.
■ Yield the right-of-way to bikes, horses, and hikers.
■ Leave gates as you find them.
■ Report downed trees and trail maintenance needs to land managers.
■ Report illegal riding.
■ Carry out what you carry in.
For detailed information on trails:

- Contact the DNR Customer Service Center, at 317-232-4180
- Access the DNR’s off-road (ATV) trails webpage at www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4229.htm
- Access the snowmobile trails webpage at www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4228.htm
ORV Trail Signs

- Trail Marker
- Warning Sign
- ATV Route Sign
- ATV Route Arrows
- Restricted
- Trail Sign
- Way Ahead
- Chevron
- Trail Intersection
- Warning Sign
- Stop Ahead
- Right or Left Turn
- No Snowmobiling
Law Enforcement Offices

DNR Headquarters
402 W. Washington St.,
Rm. W255D
Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.in.gov/dnr/

District 1 Headquarters
9822 N. Turkey Creek Rd.
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-457-8092
icodist1@dnr.in.gov

District 2 Headquarters
1353 S. Governor’s Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-3720
icodist2@dnr.in.gov

District 3 Headquarters
4112 E. SR 225
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-567-7859
icodist3@dnr.in.gov

District 4 Headquarters
3734 Mounds Rd.
Anderson, IN 46017
765-649-1062
icodist4@dnr.in.gov

District 5 Headquarters
1317 W. Lieber Rd.,
Suite 2
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765-795-3534
icodist5@dnr.in.gov

District 6 Headquarters
P. O. Box 266
Nashville, IN 47448
812-988-9761
icodist6@dnr.in.gov

District 7 Headquarters
2310 E. State Road 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-789-9538
icodist7@dnr.in.gov

District 8 Headquarters
3084 N. Dillard Rd.
Birdseye, IN 47513
812-685-2498
icodist8@dnr.in.gov

District 9 Headquarters
1387 E. US Hwy 50
Versailles, IN 47042
812-689-4370
icodist9@dnr.in.gov

District 10 Headquarters
100 W. Water Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-5710
icodist10@dnr.in.gov

North Region Headquarters
1124 N. Mexico Road
Peru, IN 46970
765-473-9722

South Region Headquarters
4850 S. State Road 446
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-837-9536

Go online for information about:

◆ State parks & reservoirs
◆ Boater and off-road vehicle education courses
◆ Hunter education courses
◆ ICOO Youth Camp
◆ Boating laws
◆ Recreation Guide
◆ Lake Michigan
◆ TIP (Turn in a Poacher/Polluter)
◆ DNR’s Division of Law Enforcement
◆ DNR telephone numbers
◆ Division of Fish & Wildlife
◆ Division of Outdoor Recreation

Visit www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/

Everything you need to know about off-road vehicles in Indiana is just a click away!

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