

# Dept. of Natural Resources: ATV and UTV operators - think smart before you start

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**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds ATV and UTV enthusiasts to operate responsibly and think smart before they start.

The *Think Smart Before You Start* campaign began in 2021 to curb risky behavior and impaired operation of ATVs, UTVs and snowmobiles.

“The goal of this campaign is to ensure everyone in Wisconsin has a safe riding experience,” said Lt. Marty Stone, DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator. “That means educating the public on the importance of safety equipment and removing impaired operators from our trails and routes.”

Operators and their passengers should always wear a helmet, seatbelt and protective clothing when riding. Here are some additional tips to ensure a safe return home:

- Always operate at a responsible speed and within your abilities
- Use extra caution when operating on pavement
- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during your ride
- Know before you go. Review all ATV/UTV laws [here.](#)

One of the best things ATV and UTV operators can do to operate safely is to take an online safety course. [A list of approved safety education classes is available on the DNR Safety Education webpage.](#)

Wisconsin law requires every operator involved in a crash incident to report the

incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, within 10 days of the incident, the operator must submit a [written report to the DNR](#).

For more information on ATV and UTV recreation in Wisconsin, [visit the DNR's ATV/UTV riding in Wisconsin webpage](#).