

Dept. of Natural Resources: Think smart before you start your boats and ATVs

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MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds everyone to enjoy their recreational vehicles safely and sober at all times.

[So far this year, there have been nine boating fatalities, five of which happened in July.](#)

[There have also been 17 fatal ATV/UTV crashes so far in 2023.](#)

DNR law enforcement officials say the message is simple: always ride sober, and always wear a helmet or life jacket.

Water Safety Tips

While on the water, make sure to:

- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket with a snug fit and fastened when you're on or near the water. Life jackets will keep you on top of the water if you walk off an unexpected drop-off, if a wave or current overpowers you or if you fall out of a boat.
- River shorelines and sandbars pose unseen dangers. Higher, fast-moving water can tax an individual's boating, paddling and swimming skills.
- Keep an eye on the weather and let someone know where you are going.

[More boating safety tips are available on the DNR website.](#)

ATV/UTV Safety Tips

While out riding ATVs/UTVs:

- Always wear a helmet, seatbelt and protective clothing when riding.
- Stop at every stop sign.
- Look ahead for curves and trail hazards.
- Stay to the right and use caution around curves.

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