

Confused about UTV laws in Utah? This guide, prepared by UTV Utah, is meant to help clarify some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the laws and regulations of UTV's in Utah. As always, we encourage a common sense approach to safety, but want to ensure our members understand the written law to make informed decisions.

STREET LEGAL OPERATION IN UTAH*

A Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) OR All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) that meets the following requirements may be operated on a street or highway under the following regulations:

It has been properly inspected before being registered for the first time

It must meet the following safety requirements (even after the safety inspection has been performed):

1. Two headlamps
2. Two tail lamps and two stop lamps on the rear
3. A tail lamp or other lamp constructed to illuminate the registration plate with WHITE light
4. One or more red reflectors on the rear
5. Amber or red electric turn signals, one on each side of the front and rear
6. A braking system, other than a parking brake
7. A horn or other warning device
8. A muffler and emissions control system
9. Rearview mirrors on the right and left hand side of the driver (for UTV's, a drivers side mirror and rearview mirror qualify to meet the requirements)
10. A windshield, unless the operator wears eye protection while operating the vehicle (half windshields do not meet this requirement. It must be a full windshield to protect the operators vision.)
11. A speedometer, illuminated for nighttime operation
12. For vehicles designed by the manufacturer for carrying one or more passengers - a seat designed for passengers, including a footrest and handhold for each passenger
13. For vehicles with side-by-side seating, seatbelts for each vehicle occupant
14. Tires that do not exceed 44" in height, and have at least 2/32" or greater tread (D.O.T. Rated tires are not required.)
15. ATV's and UTV's are not required to have wheel covers, mudguards, flaps, or splash aprons

It must be insured to be operated as a street legal ATV or UTV. (The same requirements that a motor vehicle has also apply to street legal)

The operator must have a valid drivers license

It may not be operated on a Freeway (a controlled access (with on and off ramps) corridor that is part of the interstate system)

Operators of street legal ATV's or UTV's may operate their vehicle on any highway in Utah but may not exceed the posted speed limit, or travel in excess of 50 MPH. For highways in excess of 50 MPH, operators must keep their vehicle at the extreme right hand side of the roadway AND equip their vehicle with a reflector or reflective tape to the front and back of both sides of the vehicle.

SALT LAKE COUNTY RECOMMENDATION

UTV Utah promotes the responsible use of UTV's and ATV's and while there is some debate about the language of the current law with regards to Salt Lake County, UTV Utah encourages following the intent of the law in Salt Lake County, which is that vehicles operated in Salt Lake

County **should not** be operated on any highway where the posted speed limit is 50 MPH or greater. (Bangerter Highway and Mountain View Corridor.)

UTV Utah would like to see the language clarified in the State Code, but in the meantime, we encourage following the intent, or spirit of the law by recommending not operating UTV's and ATV's on these corridors until/unless the language has been updated.

NON-RESIDENTS*

A non-resident operator of a UTV or ATV that is authorized to be operated on highways of another state has the same rights and privileges as a street legal UTV or ATV in Utah, where the other state offers reciprocal operating privileges to Utah residents. Utah law requires the same equipment and insurance requirements for out of state operators that residents are required to have. See above for a complete list.

HELMET REQUIREMENTS**

Beginning in 2018, ***all ATV and Motorcycle riders below the age of 21 are required to wear a helmet while riding on, or operating one of these vehicles on the street.*** Off-highway use is 18 years of age for helmets for ATV's and Motorcycles.

UTV operators and passengers regardless of age in Utah are NOT required to wear helmets in a UTV. It is up to each individual operator to determine the requirement of helmets for minors and other passengers in a UTV. UTV Utah encourages a common sense approach, and recommends helmets where terrain may be unstable, maneuvers may be risky, or inherent danger may exist in high speed operation of the vehicle.

CAR SEATS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Utah law does not specifically mention car seats for UTV use off-road. They are required equipment however for street use. We encourage common sense and recommend the use of car seats for infants and toddlers whether on or off road.

— — OTHER NON-STREET LEGAL FAQ'S — —

OPERATING A VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE

The State of Utah prosecutes off-highway vehicle (OHV) DUIs under the State's standard DUI statute, Utah Code 41-6-502. This means that a person may not operate a UTV, ATV, motorcycle or other off-highway vehicle while having a blood alcohol level of .05 or greater or while under the influence of alcohol drugs or combination of alcohol or drugs to a degree that they cannot safely operate their vehicle. Many operators are under the misunderstanding that they cannot be arrested and prosecuted for DUI unless they are operating their vehicle on a public road or highway. This assumption is false. Utah's DUI law does not require that the vehicle be operated on a road or highway, only that the vehicle is being operated "within this state." So whether you are in the middle of a field, on a dirt road, in the middle of the lake, or any other place in the state, you can and will be prosecuted for DUI if you come in contact with a law enforcement officer. Many people are also under the impression that they can only be arrested for DUI by a police officer. This too is false. Virtually all Utah Park Rangers and Division of Wildlife Resource Officers are also POST certified police officers, meaning that they have the same legal authority to arrest an individual for committing a crime such as DUI as a city cop, county sheriff, or a Utah Highway Patrol trooper.

UTV Utah does not condone the consumption of alcohol or drugs while operating a UTV or ATV.

FLAG REQUIREMENTS

When operated on sand dunes designated by the Utah Division of Natural Resources, a safety flag that is required that is red or orange in color, a minimum of six by 12 inches, and attached to the off-highway vehicle so that the safety flag is at least eight feet above the surface of level ground; or above the protective headgear of a person operating the vehicle so that the safety flag is at least 18 inches above the top of the person's head.

* Source cited: Utah State Code 41-6a-1509 effective 01/01/2018

** Source Cited: Utah State Code 41-22-10.7 UTV's are not classified as Type-I ATV's so helmets are not required under this section.

