

## Safe OHV Operation

Our goal is to encourage safe and responsible OHV operation. Through education and compliance of state and local OHV laws, we hope to prevent injuries and preserve OHV riding areas.

OHV's are not toys. Serious injury can result from improper use of OHV's, but with preparation and practice, OHV's can be an enjoyable form of outdoor recreation. **Children under the age of 16 are required by law to wear a helmet and eye protection. They must also complete a state approved ATV safety course when riding on public land.**

For more safety information, visit the ATV Safety Institute website: [www.atvsafety.org](http://www.atvsafety.org)



PBSO Patrol ATV and 4x4 Patrol Vehicle

## Areas to Avoid When Operating an OHV

- Public Roadways, dirt and paved, including the sides of the roadway.
- Sidewalks
- Natural Areas / Farm Land
- Property Posted with "No Trespassing" signs.
- Private property without the owner's permission.
- Canal Right-of-Ways
- Fenced / Gated Property
- Property bordered by water / canal.
- Construction Sites

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## PALM BEACH COUNTY OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE INFORMATION

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
3228 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Phone: (561) 688-3720  
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REV. 04/08

## PALM BEACH COUNTY OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE INFORMATION



PALM BEACH COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
RIC L. BRADSHAW, SHERIFF

**(561) 688-3000**

# Off-Highway Vehicles in Palm Beach County

The purpose of this brochure is to provide information about the use of *Off Highway Vehicles* (OHV) in Palm Beach County.

OHV's include, but are not limited to, Motorized All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATV), Off-Road/Motocross style Motorcycles, Non-Street Legal Golf Carts and Wheel Buggies.

Florida State Statutes prohibit the operation of OHV's on public roadways. A new law enacted on October 1, 2006, FSS 316.2123(1) allows ATV's on unpaved roadways in participating counties. Palm Beach County voted to opt out of this law on February 27, 2007.

Palm Beach County Ordinance 2007-002, *ATV Operation On Unpaved Roadways*, was enacted on March 6, 2007. This ordinance prohibits the operation of ATV's during anytime of the day or night on an unpaved roadway within the county. Violations are punishable by a fine of \$500.00 dollars.

Currently in Palm Beach County, OHV's can only be operated on private property you own or have permission to be on. They can also be operated in **certain** Wildlife Management areas.



Fence Damage in the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area

Visit the FWC website, [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) for more information about seasonal and vehicle restrictions.

## Public Resources

Websites like [floridatrailriders.org](http://floridatrailriders.org) and [atvflorida.com](http://atvflorida.com) promote safe, responsible riding, group rides and provide locations for legal riding areas throughout the state.

## Florida Statutes

Regarding OHV use, please visit: [www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/)

Look for *Motor Vehicles, Ch. 316 & 322*

*ATV Statute* .....316.2074

*Golf Cart Statute* ..... 316.212

*Drivers Must Be Licensed* ..... 322.03

*Permitting Unauthorized Minor to Drive* .....322.35

*Trespass on Property*..... 810.09



Serious injury crash in The Acreage

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Where can I legally ride?

On Private Property you own or have permission to be on.

Consult the FWC website [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) for information regarding management areas that allow ATV activities.

## Do I need to wear a helmet?

Riders under the age of 16 are required to wear a helmet and eye protection by law. It is strongly recommended riders of all ages wear a helmet and eye protection.

## Will receiving a traffic citation effect me when applying for my driver's license?

Yes, the one year period you are required to hold a learner's license will be extended for one year from the date of the conviction, or until you are 18 years old, whichever happens first.

## What happens if I am stopped on a public roadway and I'm not a licensed driver?

It is a misdemeanor offense when an unlicensed driver operates a motor vehicle on a public roadway. A court appearance is required, which carries up to a \$500.00 fine.

## If I'm an unlicensed minor, will my parents get in trouble?

Yes, it is a misdemeanor offense when a parent or guardian causes or knowingly permits their child or ward under the age of 18 years to operate a motor vehicle on a public roadway. A court appearance is required, which carries up to a \$500.00 fine.