Conservation Corner

*Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at* [*lcc@co.forest.wi.us*](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)*.*

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| |  | | --- | | ATV/UTV has become a popular sport in Wisconsin over the past few years. While a fun, popular sport, it can also be dangerous.  It’s important to take safety classes, know safety laws, and practice safety while riding.  We want to remind everyone to stay safe while riding. **On March 4, 2020** new laws went into effect for passenger requirements, headlamps, operational requirements and more.   Some of these new laws include:   * ATV operators cannot have a passenger riding in or on any part of an ATV that is not designed or intended to be used by passengers. **Before March,**this law only applied to roadways. After market seating does not comply with the law. * All ATVs and UTVs **must now**have a lighted headlamp and tail lamp during operation- **regardless** of time of day and location. * No person (except emergency services personal) may operate an ATV or UTV that is equipped with any of the following:   + 1.) A lamp that emits a color other than white or amber and that is visible from directly in front of the vehicle.   + 2.) A lamp that emits any color of light other than red, yellow, amber or white and that is visible from directly behind the ATV or UTV.   + 3.) A flashing, oscillating or rotating lamp that emits any color other than yellow or amber.   In addition to the new laws changed in March, here are some additional safety tips while riding and operating ATV/UTV’s.   * Never consume alcohol or drugs **before or during ATV operation.**   + Consuming alcohol or drugs is a factor in more than 40 percent of all ATV-related fatalities. * **Wear your helmet!** It could save your life. * **Travel at a speed appropriate for the terrain**, visibility conditions, and your experience. * ATVs are designed for off-road use. * Operate an ATV on designated trails which may include public roads. **Be aware of the rules while riding public roads before you head out.** * **Remember,**anyone who operates an ATV on public riding areas - e.g. trails, frozen waters, routes, permitted county and/or forest lands - **who is at least age 12 years of age and who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 must have completed a safety certification course.** These ATV operators must carry their safety certification card and they must display it to law enforcement officers when requested. * **Additional information and resources**   **[A Community Official’s Handbook to ATV route guideline and suggestions.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rO7GzOZIWDYC9YKpK16Xk8ZIHRqOLpEt-lFVoh_SVCv433S6W7YmVtJqhq7V8aDtbKbRtOlPiFIrCDsMRA5agSeWkyPTw-8Prj4towy3yoOh5sBc9wKB1a84kqN2zNhdMR3HA9TWikPrnijTXziaJFAHu8SAH3S30N0Gs-3AdG40rDxF3A0UzGfOcEJUnsgq&c=aFsHOhJ-4Hw9aBr1_z8dLJurFLhDCDgcNkEBt0eGku3juAedZkVXug==&ch=ThboM4FGmkpV319hzbRYwzGQpP9E5dxLoK9ZDvuZjM23bgVf5cNb8Q==" \t "_blank)**  [**Tail Sign Guide**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rO7GzOZIWDYC9YKpK16Xk8ZIHRqOLpEt-lFVoh_SVCv433S6W7YmVtJqhq7V8aDt1vOGYHWVgpkNwIoQ6WSukc-4n47wXbpfNUqntTi8_SCJcScyKBQWDJVcs15qdIVnISKkqhgncfsuJo4Ecuzk5TNHly9VjWPfcFfKR3-S2lDSPXwuBnK9P7kKeJztfAna5uTQ-MV08E4=&c=aFsHOhJ-4Hw9aBr1_z8dLJurFLhDCDgcNkEBt0eGku3juAedZkVXug==&ch=ThboM4FGmkpV319hzbRYwzGQpP9E5dxLoK9ZDvuZjM23bgVf5cNb8Q==)  [**WI ATV association.**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rO7GzOZIWDYC9YKpK16Xk8ZIHRqOLpEt-lFVoh_SVCv433S6W7YmVtJqhq7V8aDt4bveIejg5sGE0fb7YGAfad5gEH-YBUfpWPV6-fvyoCKS8EeiX5mN1PyxtdD0OyPPtxGH0a1MLX4=&c=aFsHOhJ-4Hw9aBr1_z8dLJurFLhDCDgcNkEBt0eGku3juAedZkVXug==&ch=ThboM4FGmkpV319hzbRYwzGQpP9E5dxLoK9ZDvuZjM23bgVf5cNb8Q==) | |  | |