

Off-Highway Vehicle Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Procedure

706.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance to the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office deputies on the use and general management of utility terrain vehicles.

706.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this procedure include:

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) – Includes all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, off-highway utility vehicles, or any other agency-issued vehicle designed for off-highway use, but does not include boats, bicycles, or fleet trucks and cars.

Utility terrain vehicle (UTV) – Wisconsin defines a UTV (Wis. Stat. § 23.33(1)(ng)) as a commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012, that is not a golf cart, low-speed vehicle, dune buggy, mini-truck, or tracked vehicle, that is designed to be used primarily off of a highway, and that has, and was originally manufactured with all the following:

- A net weight, without fluids, of 2,000 pounds or less
- Four or more low pressure or non-pneumatic tires
- A steering wheel
- Taillights
- Brake lights
- Two headlights
- A width of not more than 65 inches
- A system of seat belts, or a similar system, for restraining each occupant of the device in the event of an accident
- A system of structural members designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover of the device

706.2 GENERAL GUIDELINES

The UTV is a small two-to-six-person four-wheel drive off-road vehicle. UTVs have an open cabin area and passenger restraints. UTVs are to be utilized by Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office to extend law enforcement efforts to the lakefront, beaches, bike paths, park areas, and other designated areas where conventional police vehicles are not suited for travel. The Sheriff or the authorized designee is responsible for establishing those designated areas to be patrolled. The vehicle shall not be operated in excess of 35 miles per hour. Deputies will not operate the UTV on the freeway. Prisoners may only be transported a short distance on a UTV if no other means can be utilized in the given area. All operators of the UTV shall drive with due regard for the safety of

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their passengers and the public. No UTVs shall become involved in a vehicle pursuit. UTVs will primarily be used off-road or during special events such as parades or events deemed necessary by the Sheriff or the authorized designee. The assigned Divisional Commander or the authorized designee will be responsible for maintaining the inventory and condition of this vehicle as well as ensuring all deputies are properly trained before operating the vehicle in an official capacity.

706.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The UTV shall only be used by personnel who have received official training on the operation, capabilities, and limitations of the vehicle. The UTV is designed to be driven primarily on non-paved surfaces and as such, maneuverability may be impacted when driving on public roadways. All operators will be required to pass an approved WI DNR ATV/OHV Safety Course online. If no basic instruction exists, the Sheriff's Office will establish a minimum level of proficiency before being allowed to operate the UTV.

706.4 PRE-RIDE INSPECTION

Prior to operation, the following pre-ride inspection shall be completed:

T – Tires and Wheels

- (a) Air pressure – Always have the recommended tire pressure. Be sure front and back tires are inflated to equal pressures. If the tire pressure on one side is higher than the other side, the vehicle may pull to one side.
- (b) Condition – Check for cuts or gouges that may cause an air leak.
- (c) Wheels – To avoid loss of control or injury, make sure axle nuts are tightened and secured.

C – Controls and Cables

- (a) Controls – Check the location of all the controls by sitting in the UTV. Make sure they work properly.
- (b) Brakes – Ensure the controls operate smoothly and the controls are adjusted according to the owner's manual. Ensure they positioned for easy reach.
- (c) Lights and Electrics
 - 1. Ignition Switch (if equipped) – Check the condition of the switch and make sure it works properly by switching it off and on during the warm-up period.
 - 2. Headlight, brake lights and taillight - Ensure they are working.

O – Oil and Fuel

- (a) Fuel – Know the UTV's cruising range and start the ride with a full tank of fuel.
- (b) Oil – Check oil level with dipstick or sight glass while the engine is off.
- (c) Leaks – Check for fuel and oil leaks.

S – Spark Arrester/Muffler

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- (a) Be certain the spark arrester/muffler is properly attached and working.
- (b) Wiggle muffler in your hands to make sure it is firmly attached to the exhaust manifold.
NOTE: Only if the machine has not been run within two hours.

If the UTV fails the pre-ride inspection or if any of the following items are not in working condition, the UTV shall not be operated, and the supervisor shall be notified that repairs are necessary:

- Parking brake
- Foot brake pedal
- Gas pedal
- Safety restraints