

GENERAL RULES FOR ORV RIDERS IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

What are the general operating standards?

Operation must be to the far right of the maintained portion of the road or street. An ORV may not be operated against the flow of traffic. The maximum speed of operation is 25 mph unless a lower speed limit has been posted. An ORV may not interfere with other traffic on the road or street. ORVs must travel single file except when passing.

Are headlights/taillights required to operate an ORV on a road or street?

Any ORV operating on the road at any time must display a lighted headlight and taillight.

What are the permitted hours of operation?

Operation is permitted at all hours. A lighted headlight and taillight must be used from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.

How old does a child have to be to operate an ORV on a road?

A person under age 12 may not operate an ORV on a street or road. A child age 12, 13, 14 and 15 may operate an ORV on a road under the direct visual supervision of an adult and has in their immediate possession and ORV safety certificate. Children younger than 16 may not operate a 3-wheeled ORV or an ORV wider than 60" on a road. A child age 16 or 17 may operate without direct visual supervision provided they have a valid drivers license and an ORV safety certificate in their possession. Michigan will recognize an ORV safety certificate issued by other state or a province of Canada.

Who is at fault in the event of an accident?

In the event an ORV is in an accident with another vehicle legally permitted to operate on the road or street, the owner of the ORV shall be considered prima facie negligent. The owner of an ORV does not qualify for no-fault/PIP benefits in the event of a single vehicle accident or an accident with another ORV.

What is the penalty for violating an ORV ordinance?

The penalty is a municipal civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$500 and/or damages to repair any damage to the environment, street, road or other public property. The fine and damages shall be deposited into a local ORV fund.

What is the penalty for creating an erosive condition or violating state environmental law?

The penalty is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days and/or a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$1000 for each violation.