



Halifax District RCMP Community Newsletter

Off-Highway Vehicle Fine Increases

There have been recent changes to fines associated with improper use of Off-Highway Vehicles, which include ATV's and motorized dirt bikes. The fines have increased and now range from close to \$400 for a first offence to over \$2400 for a third offence in some of the more serious categories.

Off-highway vehicles are only to be operated by people aged 16 and older who have successfully completed the provincial training course. That part of the law even applies to the operation of off-highway vehicles on private property. When operating the OHV on private property not owned or occupied by the OHV operator or a relative, Crown land or multi-use trails, the vehicle must be registered and insured. There are the following notable exceptions to the mandatory training:

- A person who was at least 19 years old before April 1, 2006, and who purchased an OHV before April 1, 2006 and registered an OHV on or before September 30, 2007;
- A person who was at least 19 years old before April 1, 2006, and is the common-law spouse, married spouse or registered domestic partner of a person listed in the above clause.
- The exemption does not apply to a person who is not eligible to apply for a driver's license or whose driver's license or right or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in the Province has been suspended or revoked.

Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years old are allowed to operate off-highway vehicles on private property, Crown land and multi-use trails, but only if they're under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian, and they have to be within sight of that guardian. As well, both the child and guardian must have successfully completed the provincial training course.

For children under the age of 14, the rules are even stricter. They are only allowed to operate ATVs on closed courses. The ATV must be the approved size as outlined in the regulations. Children under 14-years-old can operate mini-bikes or snow machines on private property, but only after they've successfully complete the training course and only under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

The operation of off-highway vehicles on provincial highways or provincially maintained roads is not permitted. The only exception is when the vehicle is crossing the road, and that is only if it's safe to do so.

Helmet use is mandatory when operating any off-highway vehicle in Nova Scotia.

Charges relating to Off-Highway Vehicles:

S.4(1)(a) OHVA - Operating off-highway vehicle without permit:

- \$397.71 - first offence
- \$685.21 - second offence
- \$972.71 - third offence

S.4(1)(b) OHVA - Operating off-highway vehicle without displaying identification number:

- \$397.71 - first offence
- \$685.21 - second offence
- \$972.71 - third offence

S.10 OHVA - Failing to wear a helmet as required:

- \$397.71 - first offence
- \$685.21 - second offence
- \$972.71 - third offence

S.17 OHVA - Failing to stop on direction of peace officer:

- \$685.21 - first offence
- \$972.71 - second offence
- \$2410-21 - third offence

S.12(1) OHVA - Operating off highway vehicle on highway or adjoining shoulder or median:

- \$397.71 - first offence
- \$685.21 - second offence
- \$972.71 - third offence

S.12A(1)(b) OHVA - Operating off-highway vehicle in or on watercourse

- \$685.21 - first offence
- \$972.71 - second offence
- \$2410-21 - third offence

RCMP members will often partner with Department of Natural Resources enforcement officers to provide patrols of "hotspot" areas. Both agencies encourage operators to practice safe driving habits and respect private property laws. Anyone with questions concerning the safe operation of off-highway vehicles is encouraged to call the Halifax District RCMP non-emergency number, which is 244-7208 or Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224.

Contact Information

Halifax District
RCMP
Non-emergency
number:

(902) 244-7208

Canada

