



Creating the perfect model of off-highway vehicle recreation for all land managers, program administrators, and enthusiasts.

Basic Off-Highway Vehicle Knowledge

Scope

This outlines the INOHVAA recommended best practices that applies to all basic Off-Highway Vehicle courses in the U.S. States, territories , District of Columbia and Canada.

Purpose

To establish the INOHVAA best practices for use by course providers to meet the needs of Off-Highway Vehicle operators for basic knowledge in order to identify and reduce primary risk factors and mitigate their effects on off-highway vehicle activities.

1. The Machine

OHV Capacities

Describe how to determine acceptable loading limits based on:

- Locating the OHV's capacity information. Determining the manufacturer's maximum recommended load weight that the OHV can carry.
- Locating and determining the individual capacity ratings for the front rack, rear rack, and the tow hitch.
- Locating and determining the OHV's rider capacity.
- Determining the operation procedures and operation warnings for the OHV per the owner's manual and on all labels.

Describe potential hazards of exceeding the OHV's cargo and passenger weight limits can affect the following:

- The maneuverability, performance, and general safe operation of the OHV.
- The ability of the OHV operator to effectively respond to hazards.
- The risk of injury to the operator and passengers on the OHV.

Machine components

Identify proper location and function of various machine components such as (brake lever, ignition switch, lights, etc.)

Size-Fit-Youth

Explain the important factors to consider when selecting an appropriate OHV based on the following criteria:

- The body dimensions including height, weight and strength of the operator.
- The operator's physical and cognitive capabilities, perceptual skills, and social maturity.
- Age as it pertains to the manufactures recommendations

Riding Positions and Posture

Explain the importance of proper riding posture and how to properly manage trail features such as (hills, mud, water crossings, sand, including the natural feature for the applicable terrain.).

Demonstrate the following:

- Proper riding posture for the OHV operator.
- Various riding positions including sitting, standing, and posting.
- The proper riding position required to safely manage trail features.

- The proper execution of weight shifting techniques for steering as it relates to ATVs and OHMs.

Describe and demonstrate how the OHV reacts to weight shifting.

- Familiarize operators with the capabilities and capacities of their OHV and its manufacturers' recommendations.

2. OHV Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment

Inform OHV riders of the importance of:

- Wearing personal protective equipment.
- The minimum required personal protective equipment to be worn while riding an OHV.
- The various types of additional personal protective equipment that may be necessary on a situational basis i.e. track races, dune riding, leisurely riding and all applicable gear for conditions and activity.

Inform OHV operators of the risks and injuries associated with neglecting to wear personal protective equipment.

Helmet Specifications

Explain the following:

- Different classifications of safety standards for helmets for example Department of Transportation and Snell
- Different types of helmets for example open face, half helmet, full face, etc.
- Properly select, size, and fit a helmet.

3. Trip Planning and Preparation

OHV Preventative maintenance

Communicate the need for: Regular Inspection and maintenance of the machine and its key components (motor, electrical, fuel, and all imperative operating fluids and components.)

Filing a Trip Plan

Describe the importance of notifying someone of your OHV riding plans along with:

- The details and information that should be included on a basic trip plan. (When, what, where, who)
- The different ways a trip plan should be communicated to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Describe how to make informed OHV riding decisions based on:

- Weather forecast
- Route conditions (paved, gravel, rock, dirt, and all applicable terrain.)
- Closures (fire, weather, emergency)
- Machine capabilities
- Operator abilities and experience
- Capability of operator and the OHV pertinent to conditions
- Ride in groups of two or more people

Safety Checklist

Describe the importance of creating a safety checklist of items to pack before departing on a ride.

Transporting Off-Highway Vehicles

Describe safe transporting procedures applicable to OHVs to prevent accidents resulting in injuries and property damage.

- Describe the following:

- Personal protective equipment
- Proper loading and unloading procedures
- Securing the load correctly
- Road handling factors when pulling an appropriately loaded trailer

Safe and Responsible Riding

Operator Responsibilities

Describe OHV operator's ultimate responsibility for:

- Operator proficiency
- Situational awareness relative to terrain and all applicable conditions
- Passenger Safety
- Activities associated with the OHV

Describe an OHV operator's responsibility regarding the impact of OHV operation on other recreationists including, but not limited to the need for:

- Controlling OHV speed
- Knowing and following OHV laws and regulations
- Refrain from careless, reckless, or negligent operations

Indicate that it is the operator's responsibility to seek out additional education and training opportunities.

Influence of drugs and alcohol on OHV operation

Describe:

- The effects of drinking alcohol or using drugs while operating an OHV.
- The OHV laws pertinent to the operation of an OHV while under the influence.

Riding Etiquette

Make riders aware of the appropriate trail etiquette necessary to maintain a positive image of the off-highway vehicle community.

- Environmental concerns (natural resources, habitat, wildlife)
- Encountering others while riding (OHV riders, campers, hikers, bikers, logging, mining, grazing)
- Riding in groups
- Landowner relations (property owner and land managers)
- Trespassing

Pre- and Post-Ride Inspection

Detail the basic OHV inspection techniques to use before and after every ride.

Emergency Preparedness

Inform riders of the importance of emergency preparedness by discussing the following:

- Appropriate operation and emergency practices in accordance with the machine's owner's manual
- Adequate planning and preparation for emergency situations.
- Mitigating the risks associated with OHV recreation.
- Packing the necessary emergency maintenance equipment, medical supplies, and inclement weather necessities.

State-Specific Material

State Laws and Regulations

Discuss the state and local laws regarding:

- Operation of off-highway vehicles.
- Areas that off-highway vehicles can be used legally.

- Personal protective equipment laws (helmets, eye protection, equipment applicable to state requirements)
- Required safety features for OHVs (spark arrestors, lights, horns, equipment applicable to state requirements)
- Designated areas (trails, routes, open use)
- Registration, licensing, and insurance requirements
- Education requirements
- Air quality (dust, emissions, all applicable state or local requirements.)
- Sound restrictions (measured in decibels)
- Accident reporting

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