



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Information Bulletin No. **CA-2001-038**

To: All California Employees

From: State Director

Subject: Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Requirements

This Off Highway/Off Road Vehicle (OHV) Safety Bulletin is intended to allow for the safe operation of OHVs by BLM employees and provides a means to reduce the hazards associated with the use of OHVs.

In accordance with BLM Manual 1112-1, all personnel, including volunteers, who are authorized to ride an OHV, will complete an OHV rider safety course *before* being assigned an OHV. The training may be obtained through a recognized and certified source, either through the private sector or a government agency.

A copy of a course completion certificate (ATV Safety Institute) or other proof of completion will be maintained in the individual's personnel file. Form OF-346 may be used to document authorization and completion of training.

- A valid state operator's license is required for motorcycle use.
- Passengers will not ride on ATVs or motorcycles.
- All riders of OHVs will use the following gear when riding OHVs:
  - helmets (must be DOT, ANSI-90, or SNELL M-95 approved)
  - goggles, face shield, or safety glasses
  - gloves
  - long sleeves
  - long pants
  - leather-type shoes or boots, over the ankle
  - seat belts (where installed)

- Anytime an OHV is operated on sand dunes, it must display a whip flag.
- All other state OHV laws will be adhered to. For further information contact:  
[www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)

Appropriate safety features will be included in the specifications for purchase orders or lease agreements when new OHVs are purchased.

Upon receipt of a new vehicle, an initial inspection will be made to determine that the vehicle is safe to ride. BLM owned OHVs will be maintained in a safe operating condition and will not be modified in such a way as to void or impact any manufacturer's warranties.

A trip plan or check-in/check-out notification will be filed before a rider departs from a field office. It is the individual rider's responsibility to inspect the vehicle before use and to report any unsafe conditions to appropriate maintenance personnel. An OHV determined unsafe, for any reason, *will not* be driven until repairs have been effected.

During loading/unloading of OHVs, loading ramps will be securely attached to the trailer or vehicle in which the OHV is transported. Tie downs are to be used to secure the OHV during transport operations.

Riders will use established trails as much as possible and will operate vehicles in a safe manner. Vehicles will be parked in clear areas where possible so that hot parts do not come into contact with brush or any source of ignition. Any accidents involving OHVs will be reported to the supervisor and entered into the DOI accident reporting database using the Safety Management Information System (SMIS) ([www.smis.doi.gov](http://www.smis.doi.gov)). License plate numbers of the vehicles involved will be included in the report in the vehicle description box.

Extra fuel containers carried on OHVs must comply with DOT specifications. If OHVs will be used in the application of herbicides/pesticides, a portable eye wash station must be available to operators. Riders transporting weed sprayers, or other shifting loads, will not ride on slopes exceeding 25 degrees. A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Risk Assessment (RA), considering rider abilities and vehicle capabilities, will be conducted before traversing steep slopes.

Visitors to BLM lands will only use established trails or managed open recreation areas for OHVs. It is recommended that visitors also utilize the safety equipment required for BLM employees.

For further information, please contact Jim Anger, State Safety Manager @ (916) 978-4521.

Signed by:  
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