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For more information:
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Motor Scooter and OHV Safety is Important

Motor scooters and off-highway vehicles (OHVs) are popular vehicles for recreation and work in North Dakota. As convenient and fun as they are, it is important to ride with safety in mind. In 2008, two North Dakotans died as a result of OHV crashes.

Before getting on a scooter or OHV, the rider should have the proper equipment. Good gloves offer protection from the weather and in the case of a crash. The gloves should be padded over the knuckles. Over-the ankle boots with low heels keep feet in footrests and other protection. Long sleeved shirts and pants should be worn, but off-highway pants with knee pads, and a jersey with chest and shoulder pad protectors are even better.

The helmet you choose can mean the difference between life and death, or between a few broken bones or serious head injury. Make sure the helmet is Department of Transportation approved, and fits properly. Protect your eyes with a face shield or goggles so an object hitting you doesn't distract you from driving safely.

In North Dakota, any vehicle with an engine larger than 50 cc must be licensed as a motorcycle. It is important to know where OHVs and motor scooters can be driven legally.

It is legal to ride on private lands with the land owner's permission and lands designated as off-highway vehicle trails or riding areas. A licensed driver over 16 years of age may operate a registered class III OHV on a paved highway designated and posted at a speed not exceeding 65 miles per hour, or on a paved highway designated and posted at a speed not exceeding 55 miles per hour. One can also drive in the highway right of way, bottom of ditch, along the outslope, and on dirt, gravel, or loose surface roadways. It is illegal to operate on the shoulder or inside slope. Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state laws, so check with local law enforcement officials if you are unsure of the law. It is illegal to ride on public lands that are not designated as trails or riding areas; any tree nursery or planting area; United States, state or interstate highways or right of ways; or on railroad tracks. The OHV driver may cross railroad tracks.