

Additional State Laws

NC G.S. 20-171.16. **Passengers on ATVs.** Cannot carry any passengers, when such vehicle was specifically designed by the manufacturer for operator only operation.

NC G.S. 20-171.15(a). No one under 8 years of age is allowed to operate an ATV.

NC G.S. 20-171.15(b). ATVs with an engine size of 70cc to 90cc should be operated by people at least 12 years of age.

NC G.S. 20-171.15(c). ATVs with an engine size of greater than 90cc should only be operated by people at least 16 years of age.

Always read owner's manual carefully.



ATV Safety Tips

An ATV is not a toy. Children should not be permitted to operate ATVs without specialized training and then they should be allowed to only operate an ATV of an appropriate size. Contact the ATV Safety Institute to enroll in a course, <http://www.atvsafety.org/>.

Always read owner's manual carefully.

ATVs are not made for multiple riders. Never carry anyone else on the ATV.

Questions/Comments

For questions or comments pertaining to ATV laws and regulations, please contact:

Gaston County Police Department
420 W Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-3320



NC ATV Trespassing And Property Theft Laws



What is an ATV?

An all terrain vehicle (ATV) is a motor vehicle with two or more wheels fitted with large tires for off-road use. It is primarily manufactured for recreational use on rugged terrain.



Safeguard Your ATV

Immediately after purchasing your ATV, remember to record the serial number and take a photograph.

For the protection of your ATV, keep it locked or in a secured area. If your ATV is stolen or missing, report it to your local law enforcement agency.

Did You Know?

You could be charged with a Class 1 or 2 misdemeanor if:

- You injure or destroy public or private property while operating an ATV.
- You damage any trees, crops, or land belonging to another person.
- NC G.S. 14-127. **Damage to real property.**
- NC G.S. 14-128. **Injury to trees, crops, lands, etc.**
- NC G.S. 14-159.3. **Trespass to land on motorized ATV.** No person shall operate any motorized ATV: (1) On any private property not owned by the operator; or (2) Within the banks of any stream or waterway, the adjacent lands of which are not owned by the operator, without the consent of the owner or outside the restrictions imposed by the owner.

State Laws

You could also be charged with a Class 2 misdemeanor if:

NC G.S. 20-140(a); 20-140(b).

Careless and reckless driving.

(A) Careless and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others while operating a motorized vehicle; or (B) Without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger persons and property.

Other state laws:

NC G.S. 20-171.19(a). **A safety helmet must be worn while operating an ATV.**

NC G.S. 20-171.1(c). Cannot operate an ATV under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other impairing substance.

NC G.S. 20-171.19(e). Cannot operate an ATV on any public street, road, or highway other than for the purpose of crossing.