

## **PLEASE RIDE RESPONSIBLY**

ATV crashes and related fatalities remain a continuing trend in Hernando County, as well as in the State of Florida.

In an effort to reduce ATV related injuries and deaths, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office wants riders to know the laws for riding safely.

At this time, the Croom Motorcycle Area in the Withlacoochee State Forest is the only recreational area where it is legal to ride ATVs in Hernando County. The Croom Motorcycle Area offers ATV riders many miles of trails that range from basic to challenging.

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Find us on:  
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram,  
YouTube



The website below lists state lands where ATVs and ORVs are permitted:

[FDACS.gov](http://FDACS.gov)

## **ATV, & Off-Road Vehicles Know the Law**



**Hernando County Sheriff's Office  
Al Nienhuis, Sheriff**



## ATVs and Private Property

Every year, hundreds of calls are received at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office from citizens wishing to file complaints regarding ATVs.

The two most common complaints associated with ATVs are:

**Trespassing** - Persons riding ATVs and/or ORVs are riding on property that does not belong to them. Many times, the property is owned by the county or the state. Nevertheless, the riders do not have permission to use the land for the purpose of riding ATVs or ORVs.

**Noise** - Obviously, ATVs and ORVs make noise. Citizens who live adjacent to (or even close by) the location where they are being ridden, are often disturbed by the noise.

### Trespassing

Chapter 810, F.S.S. forbids people from trespassing on property/land without expressed permission from the owner of said property.

Persons in violation of trespass laws could be subject to citation or arrest.

### Operation of an ATV—Illegal on Roadways

F.S.S. 316.2074 & F.S.S. 316.1995 state:

1. No person under the age of 16 shall operate or ride without safety helmet and eye protection that meets DOT standards.
2. No ATVs may be operated on public roads, streets, or highways.
3. No ATVs may be operated on a bicycle path, or sidewalk.
4. Any violation is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318.

### Hernando County Ordinance (Section 20-2)

It shall be a violation of this section for any motor vehicle, including motorcycles and ATVs, to be in, on, or upon any lakes, ponds, or county drainage retention areas, regardless whether the drainage retention area is denoted as such by a sign or other notice. It shall further be a violation of this ordinance for any motor vehicle, including recreational or camper type vehicle, motorcycle, and ATVs, to be in, on, or upon and right-of-way, easement, or utility property.

We provide this information in hopes that it will assist you in selecting a location to ride your ATV, motorcycle, or ORV that is both enjoyable and legal.

Approved riding areas are much more likely to be known by, and accessible to, local emergency responders. All too often, a crash occurs in a wooded area, in the middle of nowhere, and the caller isn't able to describe where they are AND the area isn't accessible by an ambulance or a fire truck. This could mean life and death for the person(s) injured in the crash.

Please ride responsibly; wear a helmet and any personal protective equipment needed for the type of riding you are doing.

