

TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE ATV AND OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE RIDING

- **Travel responsibly** on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas. Comply with all signs and barriers.
- **Respect the rights of others**, including private property owners and all recreational campers to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.
- **Educate yourself** by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies. Take an ATV/Off-Road Motorcycle Course that will assist you with the skills and abilities necessary for this kind of recreation.
- **Wear protective equipment** and know how to use and operate your equipment safely.
- **Avoid sensitive areas** such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands, and streams, unless on routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.
- **Do your part** by leaving the area better than you found it by properly disposing of waste. Protect the “soundscape” by preventing unnecessary noise created by a poorly-tuned vehicle.
- **Prevent forest fires** by equipping your off-road vehicle with the necessary spark arrestor which is required by law.
- **Alcohol and/or drugs** should never be consumed while operating your ATV or off-road motorcycle.
- **Travel with plenty of water and a First-Aid Kit.**

We want you to have fun **BUT** also want you to be safe with your off-road riding experience.



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ATV AND OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE RIDING



Laws & Guidelines

Approved Locations and
Safety Tips

ATV AND OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE RIDING – SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The information provided by the Sheriff's Department in this pamphlet is intended to be used as a guide for safe ATV and off-road motorcycle riding.

By following these simple guidelines, you will be able to protect yourself and the environment while enjoying this outdoors activity.

Where can I ride my ATV or Off-Road Motorcycle in Santa Barbara County?

Local, State, and Federal agencies have designated, and set aside, specific areas, trails, and routes for the purpose of allowing the safe and non-offensive recreational use of off-road vehicles.

The following areas are designated for ATV/off-road motorcycles:

- **Los Padres National Forest:** The Mt. Pinos Ranger District offers over 200 miles of trails and roads through beautiful scenery and challenging terrain. Trails in this area include **Ballinger Canyon** and **Deer Park**.
- The **Santa Lucia** Ranger District area offers 102 miles of trails and roads. ATV and off-road motorcycle opportunities are considered to be some of the best in San Luis and Santa Barbara County. Trails in this area include **The Pozo/La Panza, Rock Front, Buckhorn Ridge,** and **Catway**.

For more information contact: Los Padres National Forest, 6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150, Goleta, CA 93117.

What violations/laws pertain to riding an Off-Road vehicle on unimproved and unauthorized public or private property? Santa Barbara County has Ordinances (24-28, 24-29, and 24-30) that specifically prohibit the operating of motor vehicles on unimproved private property and unimproved *public* property. **This includes the riverbeds;** *i.e., Santa Ynez Riverbed which runs from Santa Ynez Valley to Lompoc Valley.*

COUNTY ORDINANCES

24-28 County Ordinance: Motor Vehicle Nuisance on Unimproved Property: Protects against motor vehicle nuisance in the unincorporated areas of the county that exist in close proximity to residential areas, whether public or private. This protects climatic and geological conditions and sensitive habitats on unimproved lands.

24-29 County Ordinance: Use of Motor Vehicles on Unincorporated Real Property: Unlawful to use motor vehicles on unincorporated real property without permission of land owner. Does not apply to motor vehicles for agricultural or government purposes.

24-30 County Ordinance: Violations; Penalties: Any person in violation of these sections shall be deemed guilty of an infraction, punished by a fine of \$100 for the first offense or \$200 for a second violation within one year. Any third violation within one year shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail, or both.

FISH AND GAME VIOLATIONS: The Department of Fish & Game manages California's diverse fish, wildlife, plant resources, and the habitats. Be aware of the following Fish & Game sections.

Code 2000 Fish & Game: Unlawful taking of birds, fish, etc., possession as prima facie evidence. *Note: Reference to "taking" any bird, mammal, fish, reptile, or amphibian in Fish & Game Code 2000 also pertains to disturbance or destruction of the habitat.*

Code 2016 Fish & Game: Trespass for purpose of discharging firearm or taking or destroying mammals or birds.

PENAL CODE VIOLATIONS:

602(m) PC-Trespassing: Driving any vehicle upon real property belonging to, or lawfully occupied by, another and known not to be open to the general public, without specific consent of the owner, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

374.4(a) PC-Littering: It is unlawful to litter or cause to be littered in or upon public or private property.

VEHICLE CODE VIOLATIONS:

38505 CVC Safety Helmet: No person shall operate, ride, or be otherwise propelled on an all-terrain **vehicle** on public lands unless the person wears a safety helmet .

38366 (a) CVC-Spark Arrester: No person shall use, operate, or allow to be used or operated, any off-highway motor **vehicle** on any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land unless the **vehicle** is equipped with a **spark arrester** maintained in effective working order.

38010 (b) CVC-Registration: Every motor vehicle operated or used exclusively off the highways shall be issued and display proof of registration.