



H E S P E R I A , C A .

COMPETITIVE EDGE

MX PARK

Riding Off-Highway Vehicles on Public Lands

CEMX offers a diversity of opportunities for the off-highway vehicle enthusiast. Along with this freedom, also comes the responsibility to know and comply with the California Vehicle Code and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulations. This information will give you some of the basic regulations you need to know for a trouble free visit to riding on Public Lands.

Registration and Licensing: A current California Green Sticker or Red Sticker or a current license plate is required on all vehicles operated on the Public Lands in California. A Green Sticker or Red Sticker can be obtained from any California Department of Motor Vehicle office.

- California Green Sticker allows vehicles to operate on public land all year.
- California Red Sticker is exactly the same as the Green Sticker except that these vehicles can only be operated during certain times of the year. To know when you can operate your vehicle, call the specific BLM office that administers the riding area you want to visit or check the Web site at <http://www.parks.ca.gov>.
- Visitors from outside the state of California must have a valid permit/registration from an off-highway vehicle program in your home state. If no valid permit/registration from your home state, you will have to purchase a "Non-Resident OHV Permit" for California.
- Motorized vehicles operated on state and county maintained roads must be registered for highway use and have a current license plate.

Safety Equipment:

- Helmet and goggles
- Riding Boots
- Gloves
- Riding Pants
- Long Sleeve Jersey

- Chest Protector
- Neck Protector

Key Safety Points on California public lands:

- Tell a responsible person where you are going (in detail) and when you will return. Ask that person to notify local law enforcement if you do not return on time.
- At a minimum, you should consider taking and using the following safety equipment: protective clothing, helmet, goggles, gloves, seatbelts, (4WDs and dune buggys), first-aid kit, map, matches, and a signal mirror. If you own a cellular phone, take it with you.
- Make sure you have enough fuel (2-cycle oil if required) and drinking water for the round trip. Drinking water can be more important than fuel in the desert.
- When in the desert, consider staying with your vehicle if it is disabled rather than setting off on your own for help.
- Avoid driving or stopping in tall grass or brush or where natural fuels come in contact with hot vehicle parts. Stop only in cleared areas.

Practice Safe Road Habits:

- Drive with courtesy. Be prepared to yield the right of way anytime there is doubt and you can safely do so.
- Stay to the right side of the road or trails.
- Approach curves and hill crests with caution. Assume there are vehicles ahead and slow accordingly.
- Go with a friend. Two heads and two vehicles are better than one.
- Allow extra room and stopping distance when approaching other vehicles, especially youngsters, who may be less experienced.

Operational Requirements

- Possession of Alcohol - It is illegal to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage while riding in or operating an off-highway vehicle.
- Speed, Turning, Reckless Driving - You may not drive a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the safety of other persons or their property.
- Prima Facie Speed Limit - No motor vehicle shall exceed 15 mph within 50 feet of any campground, campsite, or concentration of people or animals.
- Suspended Driving Privilege - A driver's license is not necessary to operate an OHV in most areas. However, if your driving privilege is suspended in California, you may not operate an OHV on California public lands.

Equipment Requirements

- All OHV's must be equipped with an approved muffler, functioning brakes and a US Forest Service approved spark arrestor. If you are driving or riding at night -- you are required to have a working headlight to see 200 feet ahead and a tail light visible for 200 feet.
- Vehicle must meet the noise limits specified in the California Vehicle Code.
- The Operator of an OHV must be able to reach and effectively operate all controls on the vehicle. Any motorcycle that carries a passenger must have foot pegs for the passenger.
- Don't operate your vehicle faster than what is safe for the conditions of the area you are riding in and your own personal skill level.
- Slow down to 15 mph when you are within 50 feet of areas where other visitors are camped.
- Slow down to 15 mph when you are near wildlife or livestock.

Regulations for ALL-Terrain Vehicles:

- All persons, regardless of age, who operate an ATV on public lands must wear a DOT approved safety helmet.
- Only the operator is permitted to ride an ATV --- no passengers are permitted.
- Persons under 14 years of age must have an approved safety certificate in possession AND must be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian.
- Persons under 18 years of age must have an approved safety certificate in possession or be under the direct supervision of an adult who is in possession of an approved safety certificate.