

### Occupational Health and Safety Considerations for Off-road Vehicles

In addition to relevant sections of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** and Regulations, the use of off-road vehicles for work-related purposes must also comply with the **Off-road Vehicles Act** and Regulations.

Effective May 19, 2022, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released a new **Off-road Vehicles Act** and Regulations, which replaces the previous Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Regulations.

Under the new **Off-road Vehicles Act** and Regulations:

- The definition of an off-road vehicle has been expanded to include motorized vehicles such as, but not limited to, snowmobiles, ATVs, side-by-sides, and amphibious vehicles.
- Helmets are mandatory for all off-road vehicles. Operators and passengers must wear a helmet that conforms to the requirements prescribed in the Regulations, is properly fitted, and has the fastening device secured. The one exception where helmets will not be required is for hunting and trapping activities involving frequent stops where speed is less than 20 km/hr.
- Seatbelts are also mandatory on off-road vehicles where seatbelts have been installed by the manufacturer.
- Passengers are only allowed when the vehicle is designed to carry passengers.

The Provincial Government is currently working with safety partners to develop training programs and to ensure training is widely available to the public. However, employers are reminded of their training obligations under the **Occupational Health and Safety Act & Regulations**.

Part XII (Powered Mobile Equipment) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations indicates that a person shall not operate mobile equipment unless the person has received adequate instruction and demonstrated their competence as an equipment operator. It also states that operators shall operate equipment safely, maintaining full control of the equipment and must comply with the laws governing the operation of equipment. Furthermore, there is a requirement for supervisors to not permit a worker to operate equipment which could create a health and safety hazard.

Please consult the **Off-road Vehicle Act** and Regulations and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations for additional requirements.