

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

ATV Use Policy

I. Purpose

- A. This policy, developed by the Board of Directors of the Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR), defines the limits under which members of MASAR Member Units may operate, or ride on, ATVs and UTVs during wilderness SAR operations in the State of Maine.
- B. This policy applies to all member Units of MASAR regardless of the Unit's current certification status.
- C. Each Unit shall be responsible for informing its members that the state's insurance coverage may not apply to anyone who does not abide by this policy.

II. Definitions Specific to this Policy

- A. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) - a motorized off-highway vehicle designed to travel on four low-pressure tires, having a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and handlebars for steering control. ATVs are subdivided into two types:
 - 1. Type I - an ATV intended by the manufacturer for use by a single operator and no passenger.
 - 2. Type II - an ATV intended by the manufacturer for use by an operator and a passenger, and equipped with a designated seating position behind the operator.
- B. UTV - A motorized off-highway vehicle (also known as a "Side-by-Side", ROHV, ROV) designed to travel on four or more tires, intended by the manufacturer primarily for recreational use by one or more persons.

III. Limits for ATV and UTV Operators and Passengers

- A. Prior to operating any ATV or UTV, each person shall have attended and successfully completed an ATV/UTV operator's course approved by the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- B. Prior to riding on an ATV or UTV each person shall have attended and successfully completed an ATV/UTV safety awareness course approved by the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- C. ATVs and UTVs shall be used under the direction of the Maine Warden Service or other state or Federal agency during search and/or rescue operations only.
- D. Personnel shall not ride anywhere on ATVs or UTVs except in seats intended for that purpose.
- E. When operating, or riding on, any ATV or UTV, each person shall wear appropriate protective clothing.