

UNIQUE VEHICLE LAWS EXPLAINED



VICTORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

An All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is a motor vehicle that:

- Has a seat or seats for the rider and one passenger
- Has 3 or more tires
- Is not more than 50 inches wide
- Is designated by the manufacturer for farm or lawn care

A Utility Vehicle (UTV) is a motor vehicle that:

- Has a side by side seating for the operator and passenger
- Has four or more tires
- Is designated for off-highway use
- Is designated by the manufacturer for utility work and not for recreational use

An off-highway vehicle operated on public off-highway vehicle land must have:

- A brake system
- A muffler system
- U.S. Forest Service qualified spark arrestor
- A head light and tail light
- An off-highway vehicle decal issued by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

ATV's, ROV's, UTV's and Sand Rails with an Off-Highway Vehicle license plate may be operated on roads in the following situations:

- In a master planned community with a uniform set of restrictive covenants and a county or municipality-approved plat
- On a road with a posted speed limit of not more than 35 mph during the daytime and not more than two miles from the location where it is usually parked for transportation to and from a golf course
- To cross intersections, including a road or street that has a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph

*Additionally, cities and certain counties may authorize operation of ATV's ROV's UTV's and Sand Rails on roads within the boundaries of the city or within unincorporated areas of certain counties. The ATV, ROV, UTV and Sand Rail must display an off-highway vehicle license plate when operated on roads authorizes by the city or county. Operation may authorized only on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. If operated on the roads at a speed of 25 mph or less an ATV, ROV, UTV and Sand Rail is required to display a slow- moving vehicle emblem.

***Victoria County does not permit operation of ATVs, ROVs, UTVs and Sand Rails on public roadways.**

ATV's, ROV's, UTV's & Sand Rails may be operated on roads without the issuance of a license plate if the vehicle is:

- Owned by a state, county or municipality and operated on a public beach or highway to maintain public safety and welfare
- Operated by a farmer or a rancher during the daytime and traveling no more than 25 miles from the point of origin to the destination and used in connection with the production, cultivation, harvesting etc., of agricultural products
- Operated by a public utility worker during the daytime for utility work and traveling no more than 25 miles from the point of origin to the destination
- Operated by a law enforcement officer or other person who provides firefighting , ambulance, medical or other emergency services and traveling no more than 10 miles from the point of origin to the destination

*ATVs, ROVs, UTVs and Sand Rails operated on a road without an off-highway vehicle license plate require a triangular orange flag (slow moving emblem) mounted to the back of the vehicle at least six feet above ground level and the vehicle's headlights and taillights to be illuminated.

***Victoria County does not permit operation of ATVs, ROVs, UTVs and Sand Rails on public roadways.**

A Golf Cart is a motor vehicle designed by the manufacturer primarily for use on a golf course. TxDMV does not title and register golf carts, but golf carts are eligible to receive a golf cart license plate. You may obtain a golf cart license plate from your county tax assessor-collector's office. The county will require a Form 130-U Application for Texas Title and/or Registration.

A Golf carts with a golf cart license plate may be operated on roads in the following situations:

- In a master planned community with a uniform set of restrictive covenants and a county or municipality approved plat
- On a public or private beach that is open to vehicular traffic
- On a highway with a posted speed limit of 35 mph, during the daytime and not more than two miles from the location where it is usually parked for transportation to and from a golf course
- To cross intersections, including an intersection with a highway that has a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph

*Additionally, cities or certain counties may authorize operation of Golf Carts on roads within the boundaries of the city or within unincorporated areas of certain counties. The Golf Cart must display a Golf Cart license plate when operated on roads authorized by the city or county. Operation may be authorized only on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

If operated on the roads at a speed of 25 mph or less, a Golf Cart is required to display a slow-moving vehicle emblem.

***Victoria County does not permit operation of Golf Carts on public roadways within the County.**

Golf Carts must have the following minimum equipment:

- Headlamps
- Tail lamps
- Reflectors
- Parking brake
- Mirrors