



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 POLICY FACT SHEET Youth ATV Training and Fit Requirements

It is needed because

Youth safety and training are one of the Enforcement Division's key responsibilities. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) youth training programs are intended to provide a sound basis for a lifetime enjoyment of this recreational pursuit. The proposed changes in this bill clarify program requirements.

Major elements

(1) Youth ATV Training. Clarify the ATV training requirements for youth 12 years of age, but less than 16 years of age found in section 84.9256, subd. 1(c) is consistent with the ATV training requirements in section 84.925, subd. 5(a), and include operation on state and grant-in-aid trails.

(2) Youth ATV 'Fit' Requirements. Clarify that youth under age 16 years of age must 'fit' the machine they are operating and be able to properly reach and control the handle bars and foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat.

If the child doesn't properly 'fit' the machine they are operating, their ability to control the machine is substantially eroded, placing them at considerable risk for injury.

This 'fit' requirement had historically been in place prior to 2005 technical changes to section 84.9256, subd. 1(d)(2) and (3).

Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ More consistent application of youth ATV training skills
- ◆ Fewer accidents and injuries for youthful operators, and
- ◆ Broader awareness of the importance of youth fitting the machines they are operating.

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