

A Summary of Mendon OHV Laws



Purpose

In 2006 Mendon passed an Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) ordinance, allowing OHVs to operate on Mendon City streets under certain conditions. Since that time many abuses of the ordinance (knowingly or not) have been observed, and sweeping state legislation affecting on-road OHV use have been enacted. The Mendon ordinance was updated in 2009 to reflect these changes.

This brochure is designed to address these issues and serve as a quick reference to citizens and law enforcement officers regarding what is & isn't allowed regarding the operation of OHVs on Mendon City streets.

Applicability

The Mendon OHV ordinance applies to all vehicles registered in the state of Utah as OHVs. If in question, check the vehicle's registration sticker. This sticker will indicate if the vehicle is registered as an OHV.



Example of a state OHV sticker

Street-Legal All-Terrain Vehicles (SLATVs) are not covered by the Mendon OHV ordinance. They are covered by state law. Generally, these are OHVs that have been

converted to street-legal use with the addition of safety equipment (turn signals, a horn, etc.) and will have a Utah license plate and valid safety inspection. For more on the Utah SLATV law contact the state division of motor vehicle (DMV) office.



Street Legal ATVs have a license plate

OHVs used for agriculture are also exempt from Mendon's OHV ordinance. These vehicles must have a state-issued "implement of husbandry" sticker, and be engaged in agricultural purposes in order to be driven on the road.



Example of state ag. sticker

It is possible to register your OHV as both an OHV (recreational) and an implement of husbandry (agricultural). In such cases the Mendon OHV ordinance applies only when the OHV is not being operated for an agricultural purpose.

**Mendon City Mayor and Council
2009**

Intent

The Mendon City Council passed the OHV ordinance in order to allow OHVs to access legal riding areas adjacent to the city. OHV operators should proceed directly from their residence to the riding area slowly and as quietly as possible. It was not the intent of the ordinance to allow OHVs to be used as general transportation, although utility uses such as plowing snow or hauling lawn and garden equipment are permitted. Riding recreationally within the city limits is expressly prohibited.

Restrictions

OHVs, including off-highway motorcycles and snowmobiles (when sufficient snow/ice exists to protect the roadways) must have the following equipment:

- Headlights and taillights on from dusk to dawn.
- Adequate brakes.
- Unmodified, "stock" exhaust system that is US Forest Service approved (stamped on side).

OHV operators must have the following:

- A valid Utah driver's license, or
- A Utah OHV education permit.
- Riders under 16 must be under **direct adult supervision** at all times when operating on Mendon streets and all roads where they may encounter full-sized vehicles (even Forest Service roads). Adult must be within 50' of the youth rider within Mendon City.

State law defines direct supervision as: "A distance...within which visual contact is maintained and advice and assistance can be given and received." Utah Code 41-22-30

- A helmet if under age 18 (includes passengers).



OHVs may be operated in the following manner:

- Max. speed of **20 mph**. All other traffic rules apply, use hand signals.
- Only on roadways and undeveloped shoulders.
- NOT on city parks, the town square, other property owner's lawns or landscaped areas (**THIS INCLUDES SNOWMOBILES**).
- Only on legal roads and trails. (The Forest Service office has a list of these trails in the Mendon area).



- Not along 100 W (state highway 23). Crossing 100 W is allowed.

- Proceed directly to and from the riding areas outside of town. Do not use OHVs for general transportation around Mendon.
- Do not leave snow in the street when using your OHV for snow removal.
- Licensed drivers may operate true golf carts on Mendon City Streets as a normal vehicle.

Fines

The first violation of the OHV ordinance will incur a \$75 fine. Fines double for each infraction thereafter which occurs within the space of two years.

If you value the privilege of operating your OHV on Mendon City's streets, please obey the law and take time to educate your neighbors.

For more information on OHV regulations, please visit these websites:

State OHV Laws:

<http://static.stateparks.utah.gov/docs/ohv.pdf>

SLATV requirements:

<http://publicsafety.utah.gov/safetyinspections/docs/StreetLegalATVRequirements.pdf>

Trail Map:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwc/maps/misc_maps/ogden_logan_summer_tv_small.pdf