

James E. Cockrell
Commissioner

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Department of
Public Safety

Anchorage, Alaska

All Purpose Vehicle Usage on Roadways Frequently Asked Questions

What does this new regulation do?

Beginning January 1, 2022 all purpose vehicles will be allowed on roadways where the speed limit is less than 45 miles per hour and where boroughs, municipalities, or cities have not banned their use within their boundaries. All purpose vehicles must be equipped with a headlight, one rear-facing red light, one rear-facing red reflector, and one rear-facing red break light. The all-purpose vehicle must be equipped with brakes, a muffler, carburetor, and a throttle.

What if my borough, municipality, or city opts out?

If the borough, municipality, or city opts out of the regulations the APVs may not be used on roadways within their jurisdiction.

Do I need a special driver's license or endorsement?

No, your current valid drivers license will be valid for the operation of an all-purpose vehicle. Those without a valid driver's license may not operate an all-purpose vehicle on a roadway.

Do I need a special registration?

No, a special registration is not required. However, the APV will be required to have a standard motor vehicle registration.

Do I need a license plate?

Yes, front and rear license plates must be affixed to the APV if it is being operated on roadways.

Do I need insurance?

Yes, the operator must have a motor vehicle liability policy that complies with AS 28.22.

What is an all-purpose vehicle?

An all-purpose vehicle is any self-propelled device that is on wheels or tracks that come in contact with the ground. Common all-purpose vehicles are four-wheelers, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), or side-by-sides.

Do snowmachines and hovercrafts qualify as all-purpose vehicles?

Snowmachines and hovercrafts are still not allowed to be operated on the roadway under these new regulations.

Do I have to follow traffic laws when I operate my APV on a roadway?

You must follow all traffic laws when operating your APV on a roadway.

Can an Alaska State Trooper or local police officer pull me over when I am operating an APV?

Yes, APVs are subject to many of the same laws and regulations that vehicles must follow.

What happens when the speed on a roadway increases from 45 miles-per-hour to 55 miles-per-hour?

You may not operate an all-purpose-vehicle on any portion of a roadway that has a speed limit higher than 45 miles-per-hour. If the speed limit increases on the roadway, you may not travel on the portion of that roadway where the speed is higher than the limit.

Am I required to use a helmet when I operate my APV on a roadway?

Helmets are not required for drivers of an all purpose vehicle, however passengers are required to wear a helmet.

Am I required to use a seatbelt if my APV is equipped with them when I operate on a roadway?

If the all purpose vehicle is equipped with seat belts, the driver and any passengers will be required to use them while operating on a roadway.

Am I required to provide child restraints or car seats for children that are passengers on an APV being operated on a roadway?

Child restraint systems or car seats must be used if the APV is equipped with seat belts. If the APV is not equipped with seatbelts then a car seat or child restraint system is not required.

Do I need to have turn signals on my APV?

The operator must use hand signals or properly installed turn signals as required under current regulations and statutes for motor vehicles or motorcycles.