

WISCONSIN ATV/UTV SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT



2014

ANNUAL REPORT



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Law Enforcement

PUBLEA501 2015

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PROGRAM SCOPE

The Bureau of Law Enforcement ATV/UTV program has a wide range of duties and responsibilities which include:

- Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration
- Enforcement
- Safety Education
- Operations and Training
- Public Service Announcements
- Municipal Ordinance Review

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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For more Wisconsin ATV contacts, see the Recreational Safety Warden map at the end of this report.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

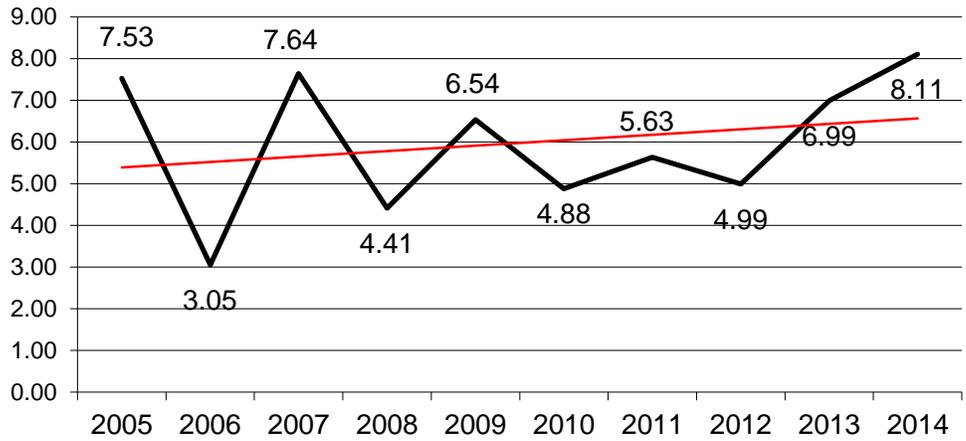
Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration

An ATV/UTV crash incident is any incident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) that results in a fatality or an injury that requires medical treatment by a physician.

Wisconsin law requires every ATV/UTV operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, **within 10 days** of the incident, the operator must submit a written report on [Form 4100-174](#) to the Department of Natural Resources.

History of ATV fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations

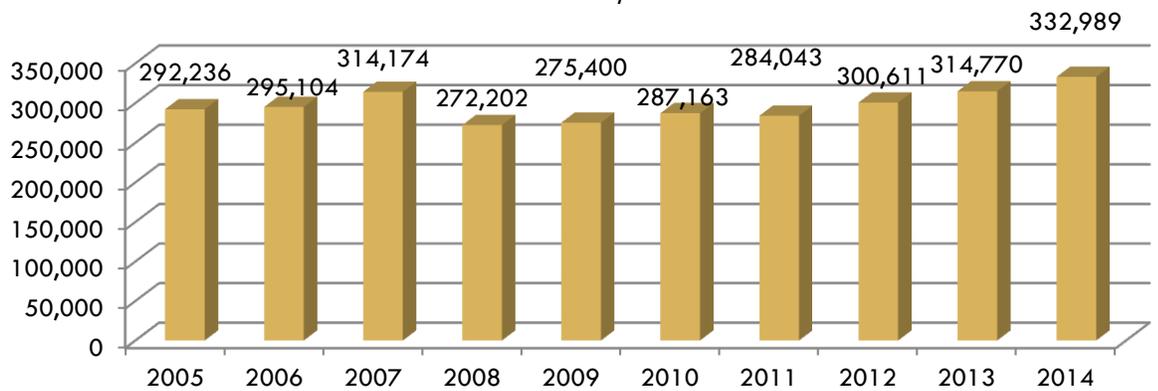
Over the past 10 years there has been a slight decreasing trend in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered ATVs (does not include ATV Trail passes). This trend is based on the increasing number of registered ATV/UTV.



WISCONSIN RESIDENT ATV/UTV REGISTRATIONS

Of the total 332,989 registrations in 2014, 27,977 of those were UTVs, up 8,536 from 2013.

UTV registration was mandatory since April 2012.

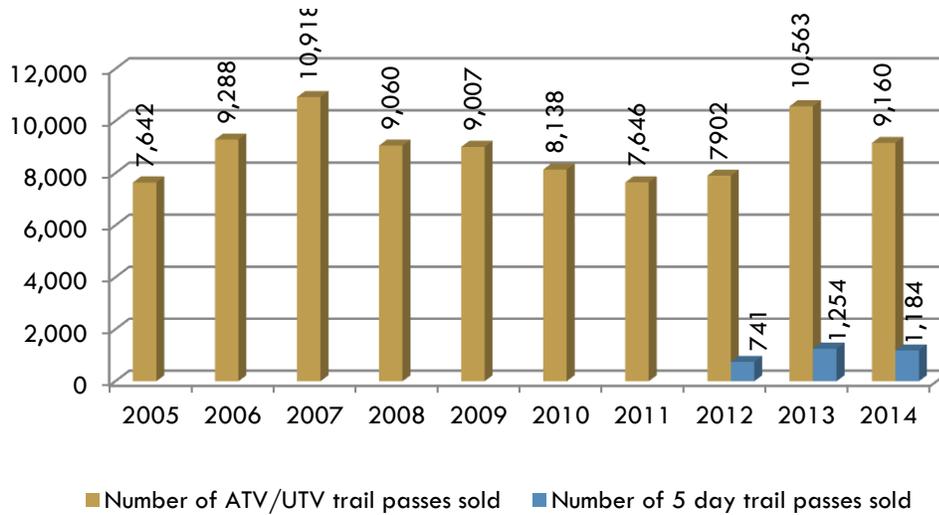


Registration

cycle change: A public-use registration certificate for an ATV or UTV is valid beginning on April 2nd or the date of issuance or renewal and ending March 31st of the 2nd year following the date of issuance or renewal. There is a late fee of \$5 for renewal if registration has expired.

Registrations include public use, private use and municipal use.

NUMBER OF ATV/UTV TRAIL PASSES SOLD

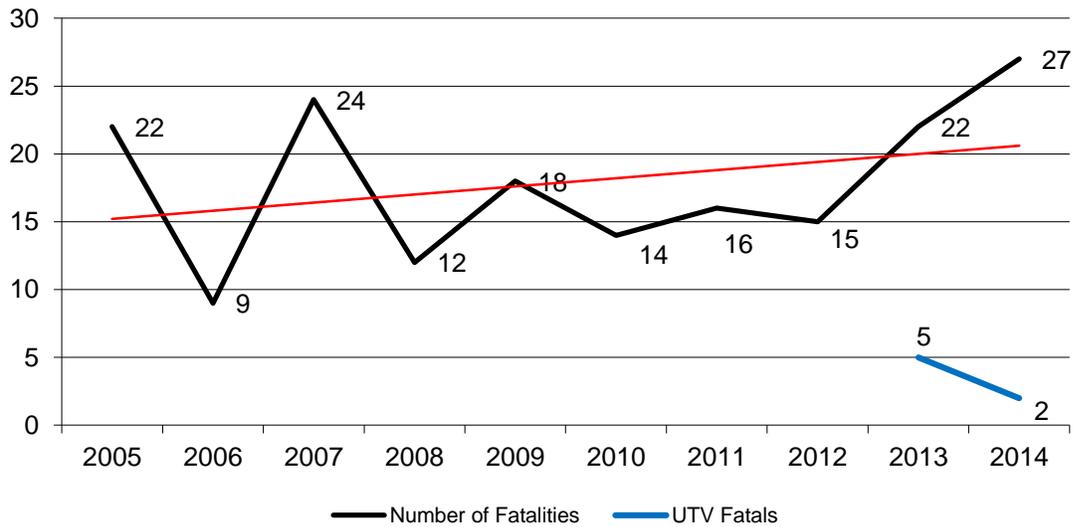


ATV trail passes are required on out-of-state ATV/UTVs not registered in Wisconsin.

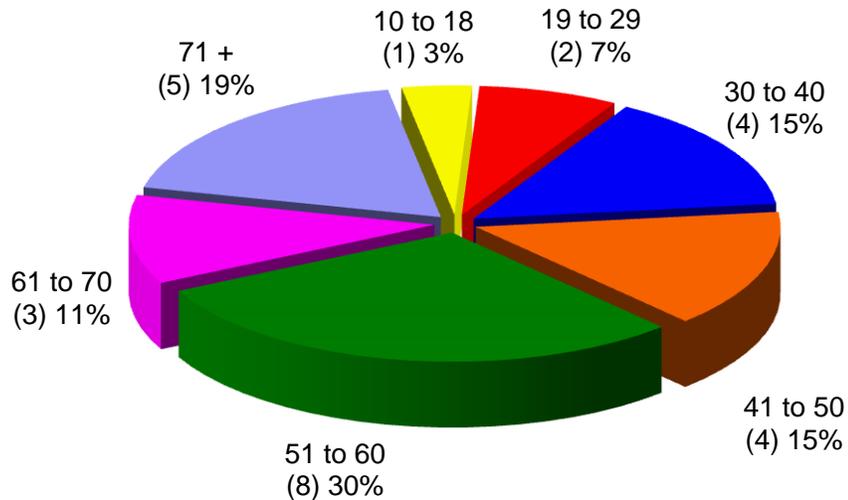
As of July 1, 2012, a new 5-day trail pass was made available.

HISTORY OF ATV/UTV FATALITIES

Wisconsin had 27 ATV/UTV fatalities, 5 more than the previous year. The ATV/UTV fatality trend has increased since 2004.

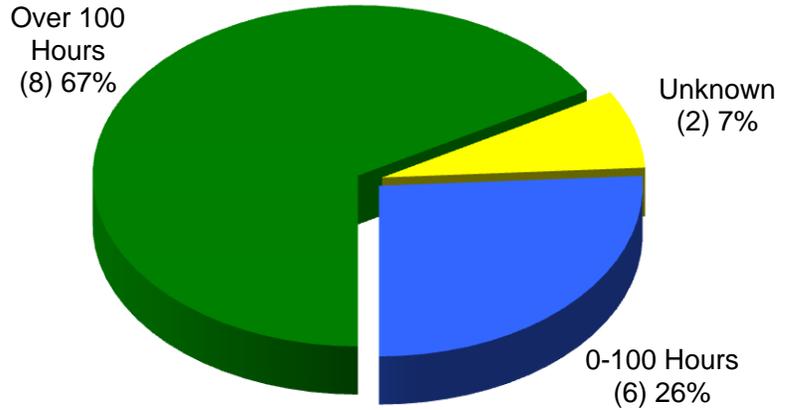


AGE OF VICTIM



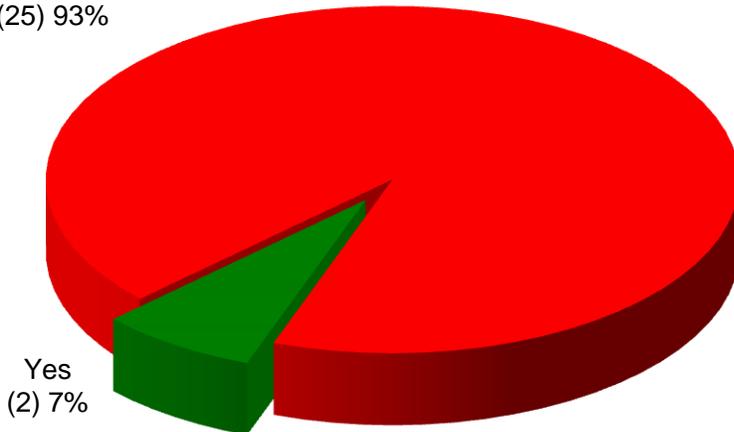
OPERATOR EXPERIENCE

47% of the operators involved in an accident reported their ATV/UTV experience as over 100 hours.



OPERATOR WAS WISCONSIN ATV/UTV SAFETY CERTIFIED

No
(25) 93%

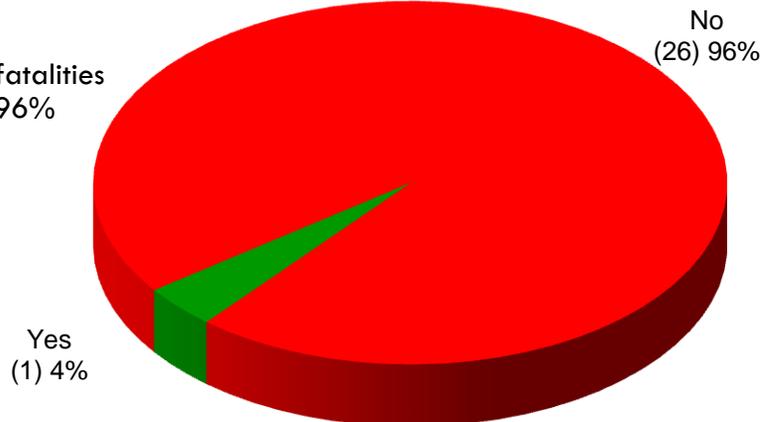


One of the greatest contributing factors to ATV/UTV fatalities is the operator not being ATV/UTV safety certified. 93% of the operators involved in an accident reported no ATV/UTV safety education course an increasing and prominent trend over the past several years.

Certification in ATV/UTV safety is encouraged for operators of all ages.

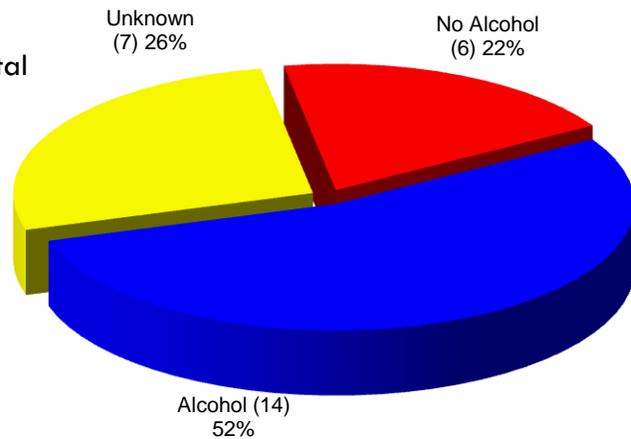
Presence of Helmet During Accident

Another contributing factor to ATV/UTV fatalities is not wearing a helmet. Of the victims, 96% were not wearing a helmet.

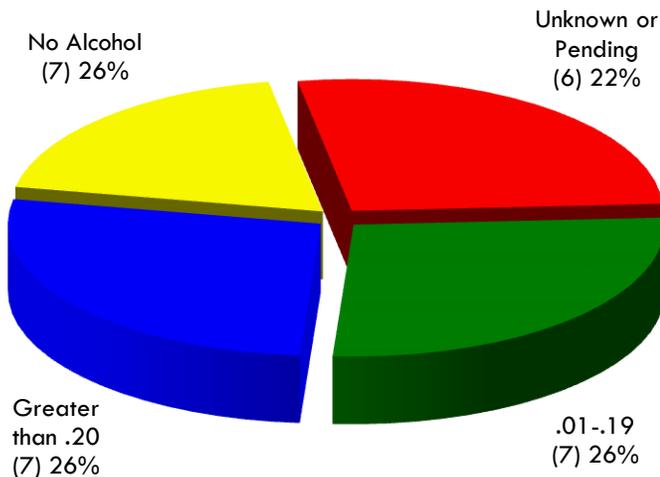


ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT

Alcohol was involved in fourteen of the twenty-six fatal incidents. "Alcohol Involved" means alcohol was detected in victim's system or witness verified victim consumed alcohol. (Blood test results were unknown for nine incidents.)



AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL (BAC) DETECTED IN THE VICTIM AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT

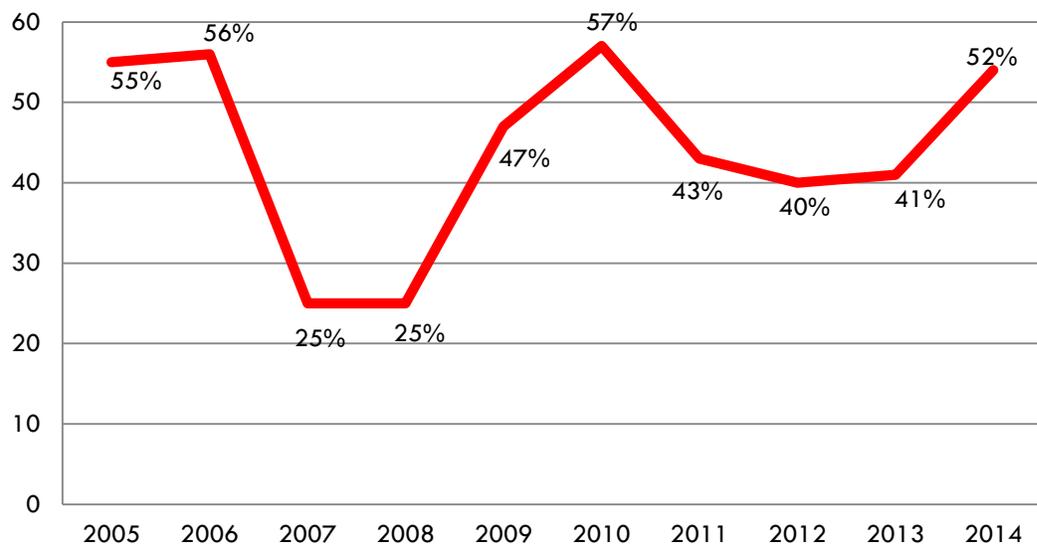


*All Data is representative of a percentage of the data from the 27 fatal accident victims from 2014.

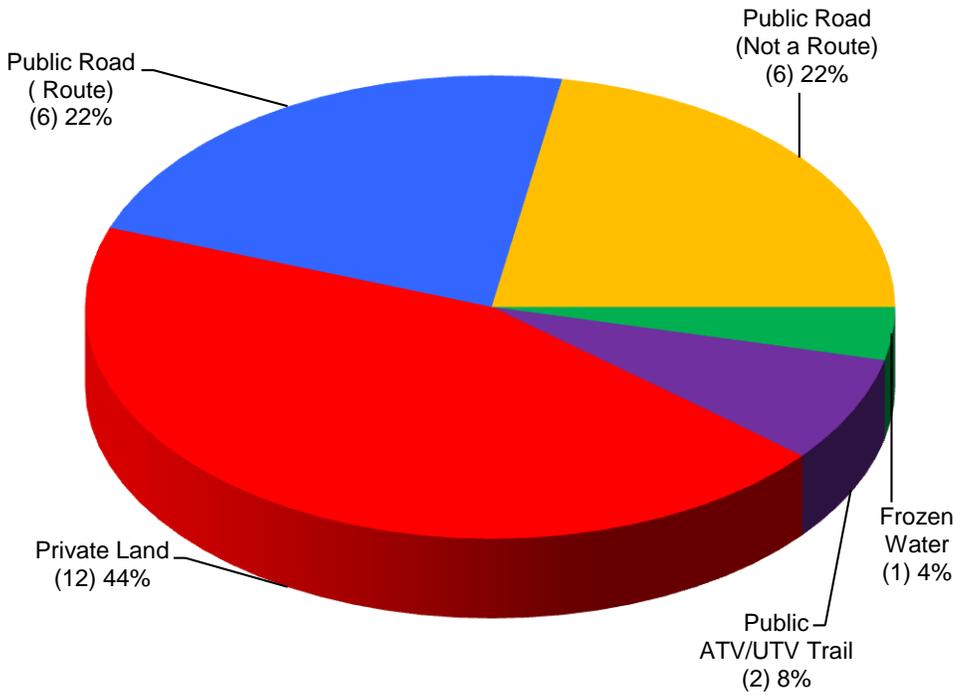
*Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml).

10-Year Trend

Percent of Alcohol Involved Fatalities



Location of Incident

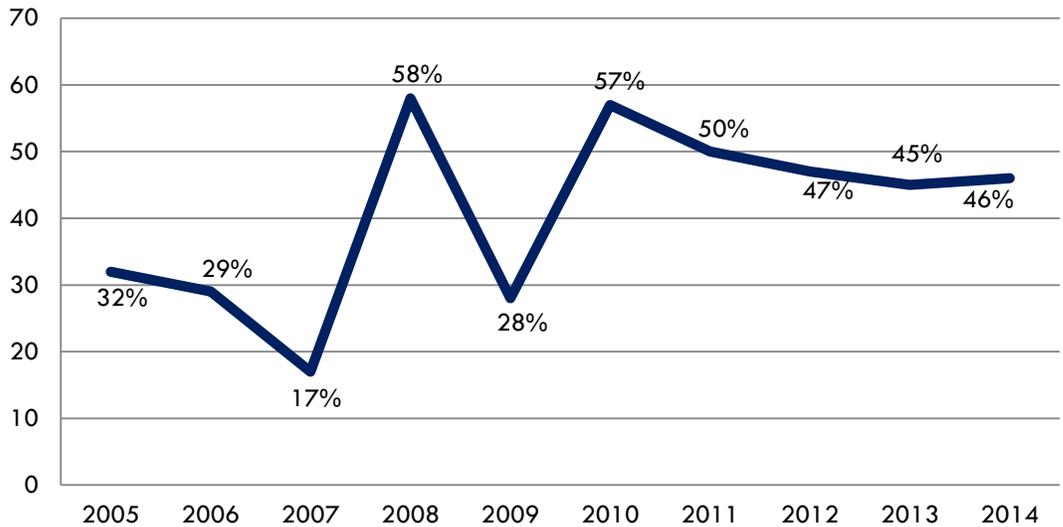


44% of fatal incidents occurred on roads. The miles of road routes have been increasing based on local municipal ordinances which are often driven by public request or inputs. ATVs/UTVs are designed for off-road use equipped with soft low pressure tires and high center of gravity causing them to be unstable on roadways.

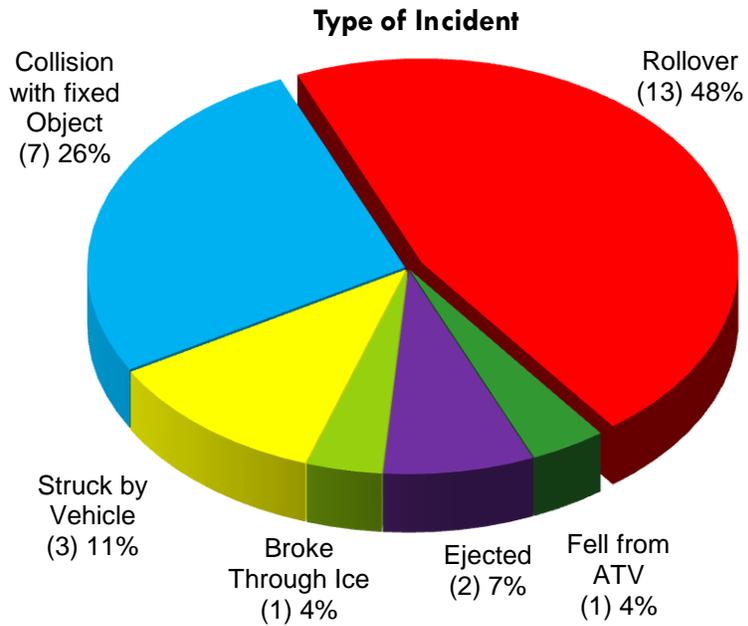
*A Route is a public road opened to legal ATV/UTV travel by the local municipality.

10-Year Trend

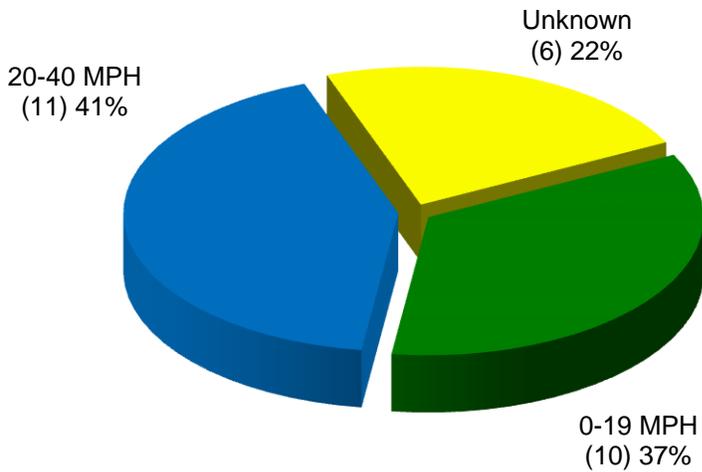
Percentage of fatalities occurring on roadways.



There were 13 fatal crashes that involved rolling over with 7 fatal crashes that involved colliding with a fixed object.

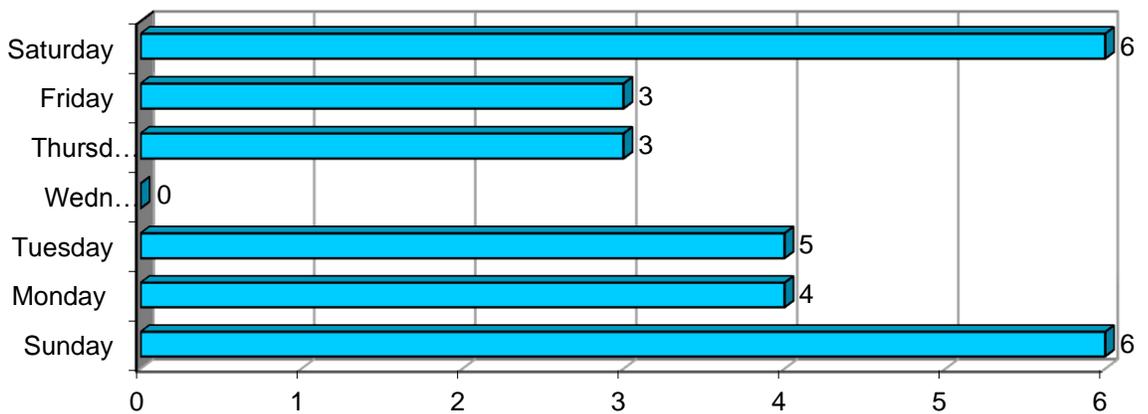


Estimated Speed at Time of Accident

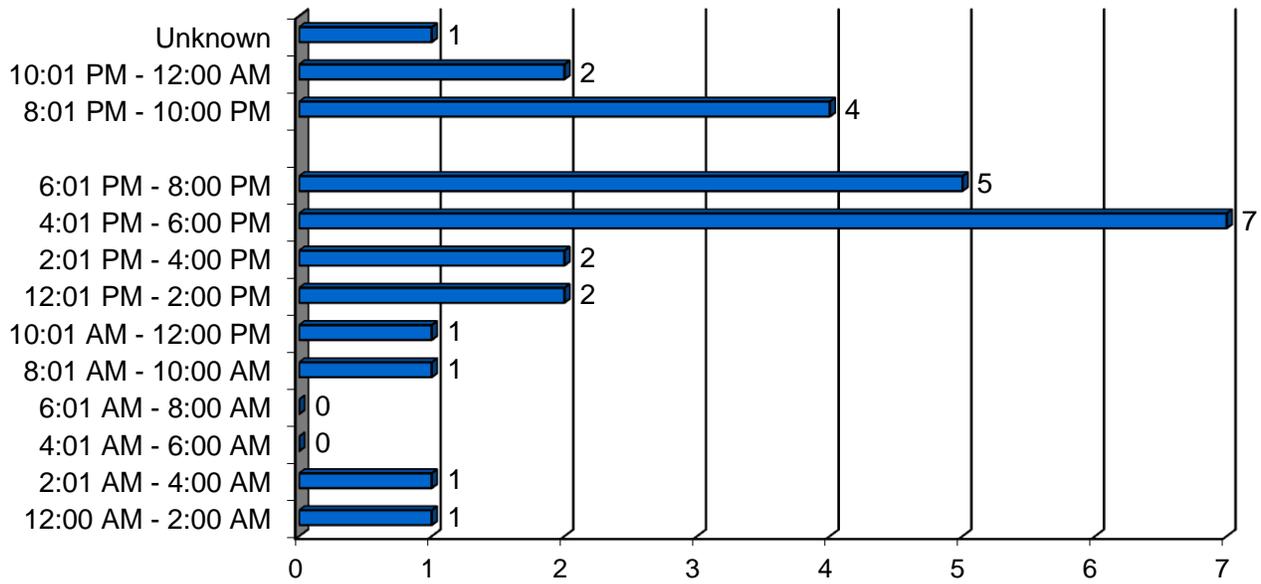


FATALITIES BY DAY OF WEEK

Saturday and Sunday continue to be the days of the week with the highest number of fatal occurrences with a total of 12 for both days.



TIME OF INCIDENT WITH NUMBER OF FATAL OCCURRENCE



As the graph indicates most fatal crashes occurred between the hours of 4-6PM.

Enforcement

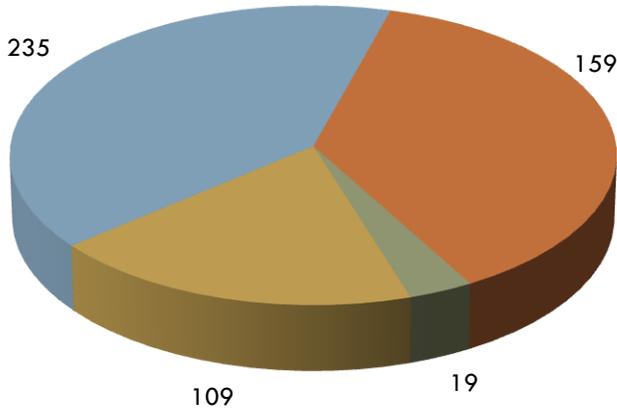
State conservation wardens and county deputies provide the majority of on-the-trail enforcement of ATV/UTV laws.

In 2014 state conservation wardens and county deputies recorded 18,442 hours of ATV/UTV patrol and 837 hours on public relations.

Top Ten ATV/UTV Violations

#1	Illegal operation of AVT/UTV's on or in the vicinity of highways.	251
#2	Operate ATV/UTV without a valid safety certificate or fail to carry certificate on ATV/UTV and display upon request.	181
#3	Operate ATV/UTV without valid registration.	150
#4	Operate/ride ATV/UTV without headgear.	140
#5	Operate ATV/UTV in a careless manner.	91
#6	Operate ATV/UTV while intoxicated.	87
#7	Operate, sell, rent or manufacture and ATV/UTV exceeding the 96 decibel noise limit.	72
#8	Permit operation by a person under age, physically or mentally disabled or under influence / drugs.	59
#9	Operate ATV/UTV on public or private property of another without consent.	58
#10	Operate ATV/UTV with alcohol concentration at or above .08%.	57

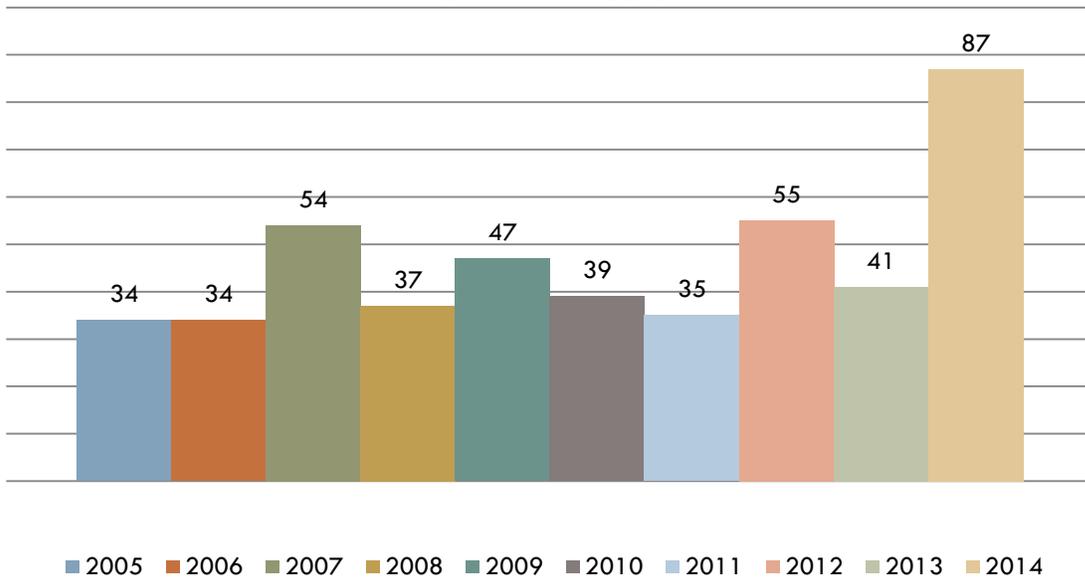
Citations Issued for ATV/UTV Violations in 2014



State Conservation Wardens and county deputies provide on-the-trail enforcement of ATV/UTV laws. The total number of citations for 2014 was 1,390.

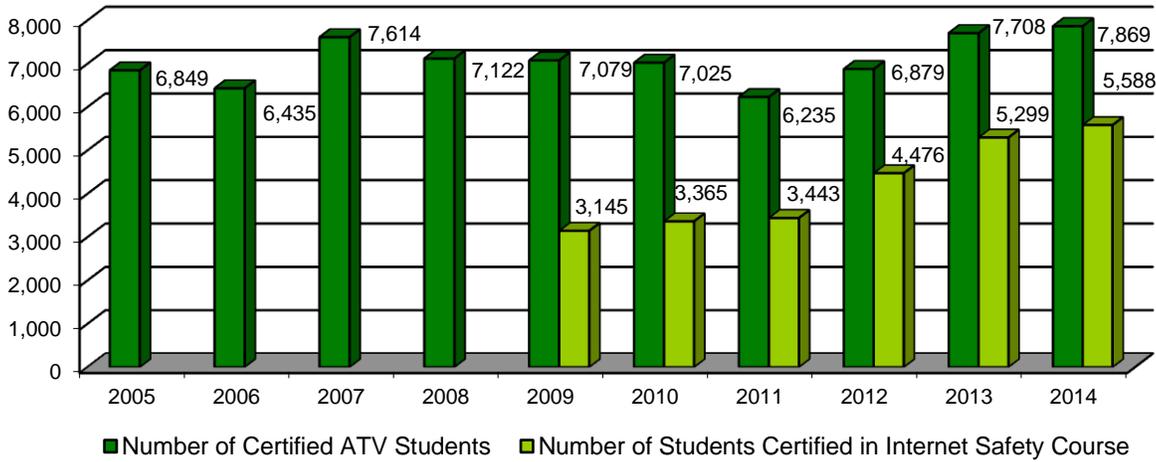
- Registration / Trail Pass Violations
- Alcohol / Drug Related
- Speed Related
- Equipment Violations

OWI Arrests



Safety Education

NUMBER OF STUDENTS CERTIFIED



*WI DNR offers ATV Safety Certification Courses online at dnr.wi.gov, Keyword "ATV Education."

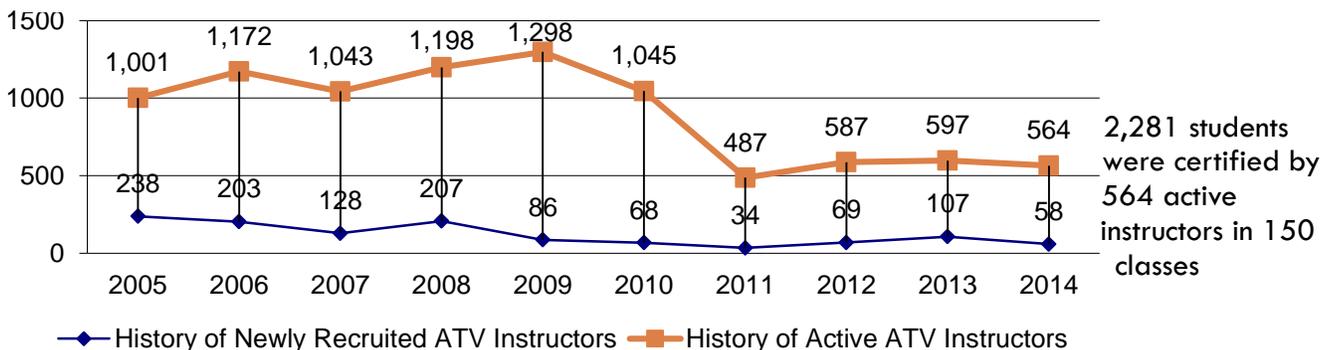
All-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle riding is a growing sport in Wisconsin. Along with the privilege of enjoying the sport comes the responsibility of making sure you are operating these vehicles safely and responsibly.

On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring mandatory ATV/UTV education. ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV and UTV safety certification course in order to operate on public ATV/UTV trails and areas in Wisconsin. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all ATV and UTV operators complete a safety course.

In 2014, 5,588 or 71% of the 7,869 total students were certified through an Internet Safety Course. The trend of the number of people being certified by the internet safety course vs. a traditional class room course is increasing.

Since the ATV/UTV Education Program began in 1986 there has been a steady increase of certified ATV/UTV students reaching 109,114 at the end of 2014.

NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED AND ACTIVE



Operations and Training

In 2001 the Trail Patrol Ambassador Program was started, which is a group of dedicated and trained volunteers who give their time to patrol Wisconsin's ATV trails creating a positive future for OHV recreation. <http://www.watva.org/>

Some of their tasks include:

- Educating the riders on the rules and regulations as well as ethical riding practices.
- Teach Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ATV certification classes.
- Patrol the trails while watching for riders in distress or riders who are violating the law.
- Trail Clean up.
- Sign posting.



Public Service Announcements

The ATV program used radio, television and media interviews across the state. Wisconsin DNR sponsored "ATV safety" public service announcements working with the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and Journal Sentinel Online.

The Department of Natural Resources continues to work with the Department of Tourism, The Off-road Vehicle Council and the Wisconsin ATV Association throughout the state in order to promote safe and ethical ATV/UTV operation.

Municipal Ordinance Review

Counties, towns, cities and villages may enact ordinances regulating ATV/UTV trails and routes. If a county, town, city or village adopts an ordinance regulating ATV/UTV's its clerk shall immediately send a copy of the ordinance to the department and to the office of any law enforcement agency of the municipality or county having jurisdiction over any highway designated as an ATV/UTV route.

Although Wisconsin law does not give the Department of Natural Resources advisory review authority the department will encourage and supervise a system of ATV/UTV routes and trails and may establish standards and procedures for certifying the designation of ATV/UTV routes and trails.

If significant inconsistencies with state law exist, in the interest of public safety and welfare, the county, town, city and villages the department may contact them.

Wisconsin ATV/UTV Fatality Summary - 2014

Date/Time	Location	Cause / Factors	Age / Sex / BAC / Residency	Helmet/WI Safety Certified
2/17/2014 / 4:56PM	Road (Not a Route), City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co.	Struck by Vehicle	74 / M / .000 / WI	No / No
Victim was struck by a vehicle while snowplowing.				
3/15/2014 / 5:20PM	Private Property, West Salem, LaCrosse Co.	Roll Over / Alcohol, Grade and Icy Conditions	44 / M / .294 / WI	No / No
Victim was driving across a hill with a steep grade that was snow covered and icy when the ATV lost traction. The ATV started sliding backwards down the hill and flipped.				
3/25/2014 / 6:15PM	Private Property, Iron River, Bayfield Co.	Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol	58 / M / .194 / WI	No / No
Victim was riding down a driveway when he hit the snow bank on the right side causing the ATV to roll and for him to be ejected.				
4/3/2014 / 7:42PM	Private Property, Liberty Township, Grant Co.	Ejected / Alcohol	55 / M / .206 / WI	No / No
Victim attempted to jump/ramp over a 3 foot high retaining wall and was ejected from the ATV.				
5/8/2014 / 10:05AM	Road (Not a Route), Liberty Grove, Door Co.	Roll Over / Mechanical, Failure to use Ramps	75 / M / .000 / WI	No / No
The victim was attempting to load an ATV onto a utility trailer without ramps when the ATV overturned and pinned the victim beneath the ATV.				
6/7/2014 / 7:08PM	Private Property, Sevastopol, Door Co	Struck a Fixed Object / Speed, Alcohol, Drugs	59 / M / .140 / WI	No / No
The victim had been operating an ATV on private property and struck a tree.				
6/16/2014 / 3:00PM	Trail, Hurley, Iron Co.	Roll Over / Speed	15 / F / .000 / WI	Yes / Yes
The victim lost control on the side of the ATV trail with loose sand/gravel and tipped the ATV off the trail.				
7/1/2014 / 3:56PM	Road (Not a Route), Brighton, Kenosha Co.	Roll Over / Alcohol, Roadway Operation	56 / M / .350 / WI	No / No
The victim was found deceased on the roadway by a motorist. It appears the victim veered into the ditch and then back onto the road where he lost control and rolled the ATV. The victim sustained extensive head injuries.				
7/4/2014 / 9:54PM	Road/Route, Pickerel, Forest Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol, Speed	41 / M / .251 / WI	No / No
The victim was found deceased, it appears the victim left the road and struck a tree, victim sustained massive head injuries.				

WISCONSIN ATV/UTV SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Date/Time	Location	Cause / Factors	Age / Sex / BAC / Residency	Helmet/WI Safety Certified
7/7/2014 / 9:39AM	Private Property / Driveway, Crivitz, Marinette Co.	Fell from ATV / Possible Medical Condition	93 / M / Unknown / WI	No / No
The victim was found on his driveway and appears to have fallen from his ATV.				
7/11/2014 / 9:33PM	Road/Route, Middle Inlet, Marinette Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol	49 / M / Pending / WI	No / No
The victim was found lying unconscious in the middle of a road/route and appears to have hit a large pile of sand and was ejected from the ATV. Victim Passed on 7/14/2014.				
7/20/2014 / 1:00AM	Road/Route, Russell, Bayfield Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Speed	19 / M / .000 / WI	No / No
The victim and ATV were found in a ditch, it appears an attempt to stop at a stop sign was made but the victim was driving at a high rate of speed and continued through the intersection into the ditch.				
8/3/2014 / 5:00PM	Road (Not a Route), Albany, Green Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Medical Issues	61 / M / .000 / WI	No / No
Passenger indicated that it appears the victim may have had a diabetic issue that caused him to lose control of the ATV and struck a tree.				
8/5/2014 8:11PM	Private Property, Amherst, Portage Co.	Roll Over / Unsafe Operation	79 / M / Unknown / WI	No / No
While attempting to get his UTV unstuck, the victim lost control, rolled down a hill with the UTV ending up on top of him.				
8/23/2014 2:00PM	Private Property, Big Flats, Adams Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol, Speed	51 / M / .307 / WI	No / No
Victim and passenger were traveling on a woods trail when they went off the trail and struck a clump of trees, passenger received minor injuries.				
8/23/2014 10:02PM	Private Road, Middle Inlet, Marinette Co.	Struck a Fixed Object / Speed, Alcohol	38 / M / .013 / WI	No / No
It appears the victim was traveling down a hill at a high rate of speed and failed to negotiate a turn and collided with a tree at the edge of the roadway.				
9/01/2014 9:40PM	Highway (Not a Route), Rib Falls, Marathon Co.	Struck by a Vehicle / Alcohol, Fail to Yield Right of Way	26 / M / Pending / WI	No / Yes
The victim failed to yield the right of way while crossing a highway and was struck by two motor vehicles.				
9/05/2014 4:23PM	Highway (Not a Route), Nelson, Buffalo Co.	Struck by a Vehicle / Alcohol, Fail to Yield Right of Way	33 / M / .146 / WI	No / No
The victim failed to yield the right of way while crossing a highway and was struck by a motor vehicle.				

WISCONSIN ATV/UTV SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Date/Time	Location	Cause / Factors	Age / Sex / BAC / Residency	Helmet/WI Safety Certified
9/06/2014 5:34PM	Road/Route, Doty, Oconto Co.	Ejected / Speed, Alcohol	36 / F / .032 / WI	No / No
While driving around a curve the victim went off the road, over corrected and was ejected from the ATV.				
9/07/2014 4:53PM	Trail, Stephenson, Marinette Co.	Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol	52 / M / .070 / WI	No / No
Victim and passenger hit a large mud puddle in the middle of the trail, unforeseen to the victim were large tire track ruts underneath the water. The victim hit a rut causing the ATV to roo, ejecting him and the passenger. Passenger had minor injuries.				
9/20/2014 10:41PM	Road/Route, Little Rice, Oneida Co.	Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol	52 / M / .192 / WI	No / No
It appears the victim was the operator of a UTV that was traveling at a high rate of speed with a passenger. The UTV left the roadway and continued down a steep embankment where it rolled over. Neither occupant was wearing a helmet or seat belt.				
9/23/2014 6:45PM	Road/Route, Aurora, Florence Co.	Roll Over / Speed, Alcohol	54 / M / .210 / WI	No / No
The victim lost control after a curve and rolled several times.				
9/25/2014 6:30PM	Private Property, Freeman Township, Crawford Co.	Roll Over / Turning Around on a Hill	77 / M / Unknown / WI	No / No
The victim attempted to turn around on a side hill, rolling the ATV on top of him.				
10/26/2014 2:07AM	Private Property, Village of Radisson, Sawyer Co.	Roll Over / Alcohol, Careless Operation	38 / M / .302 / WI	No / No
The victim was driving at a high rate of speed in a circular pattern causing the ATV to roll over.				
11/09/2014 Unknown	Private Property, Town of Farmington, LaCrosse Co.	Roll Over / Improperly Loaded ATV	63 / M / .000 / WI	No / No
The victim and overturned ATV, which had a large buck strapped to the front rack, were found on a steep hillside.				
11/30/2014 1:00PM	Private Property, Township of Curran, Jackson Co.	Roll Over / Speed	62 / M / Unknown / WI	No / No
The victim was retrieving a deer at the bottom of a steep hill when his ATV began sliding and loosing traction, victim turned his tires downhill when it appeared he fell off and the ATV rolled.				
12/23/2014 6:00PM	Lake, Township of Fox Lake, Dodge Co.	Broke Through Ice / Ice Conditions	41 / M / Unknown/ WI	No / NA
The victim was a passenger on an ATV that broke through the ice, the operator was able to get out of the water.				

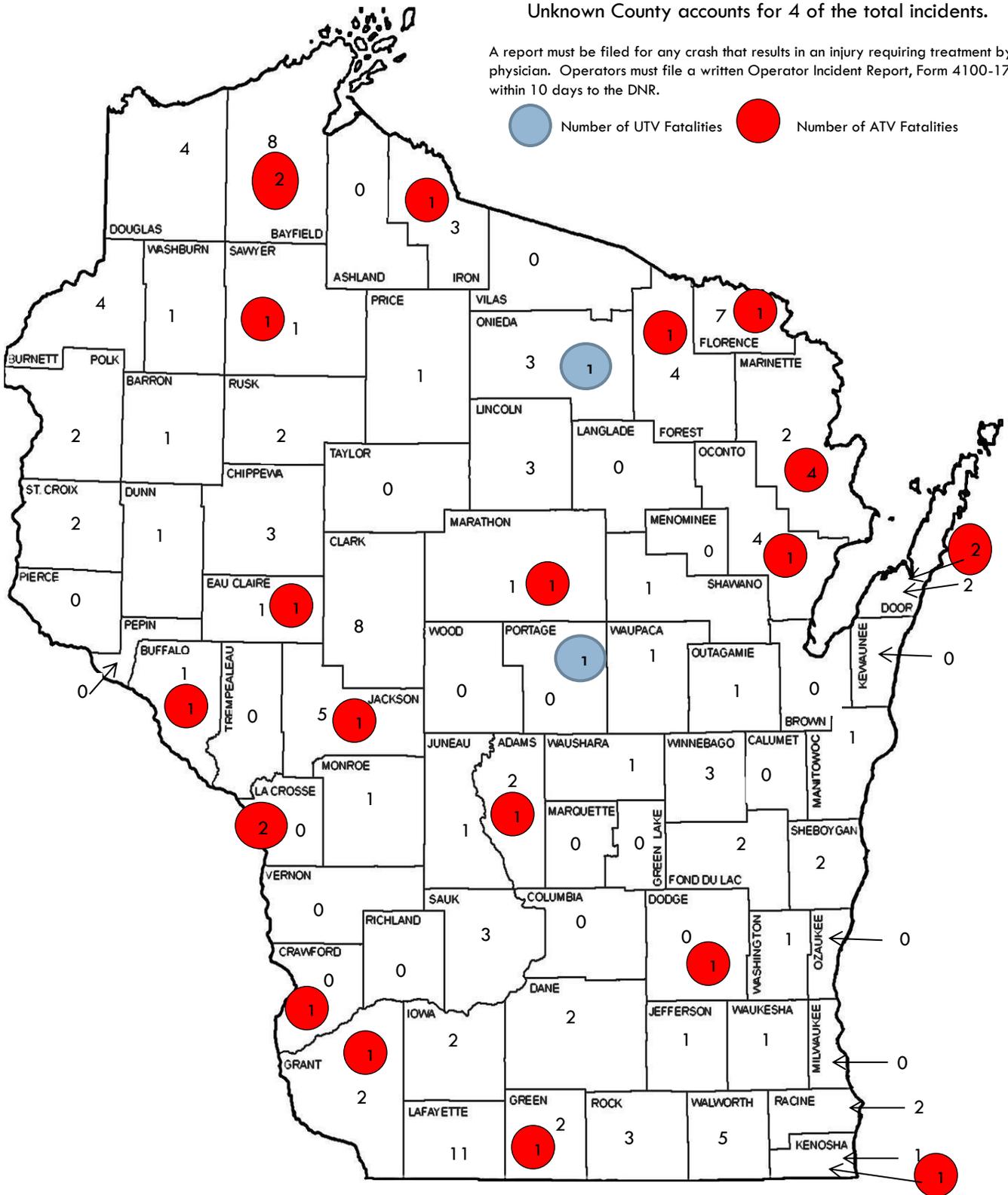
2014 TOTAL ATV/UTV INJURY INCIDENTS REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT BY COUNTY

Total Incidents = 275; ATV Total = 263; UTV Total = 12

Unknown County accounts for 4 of the total incidents.

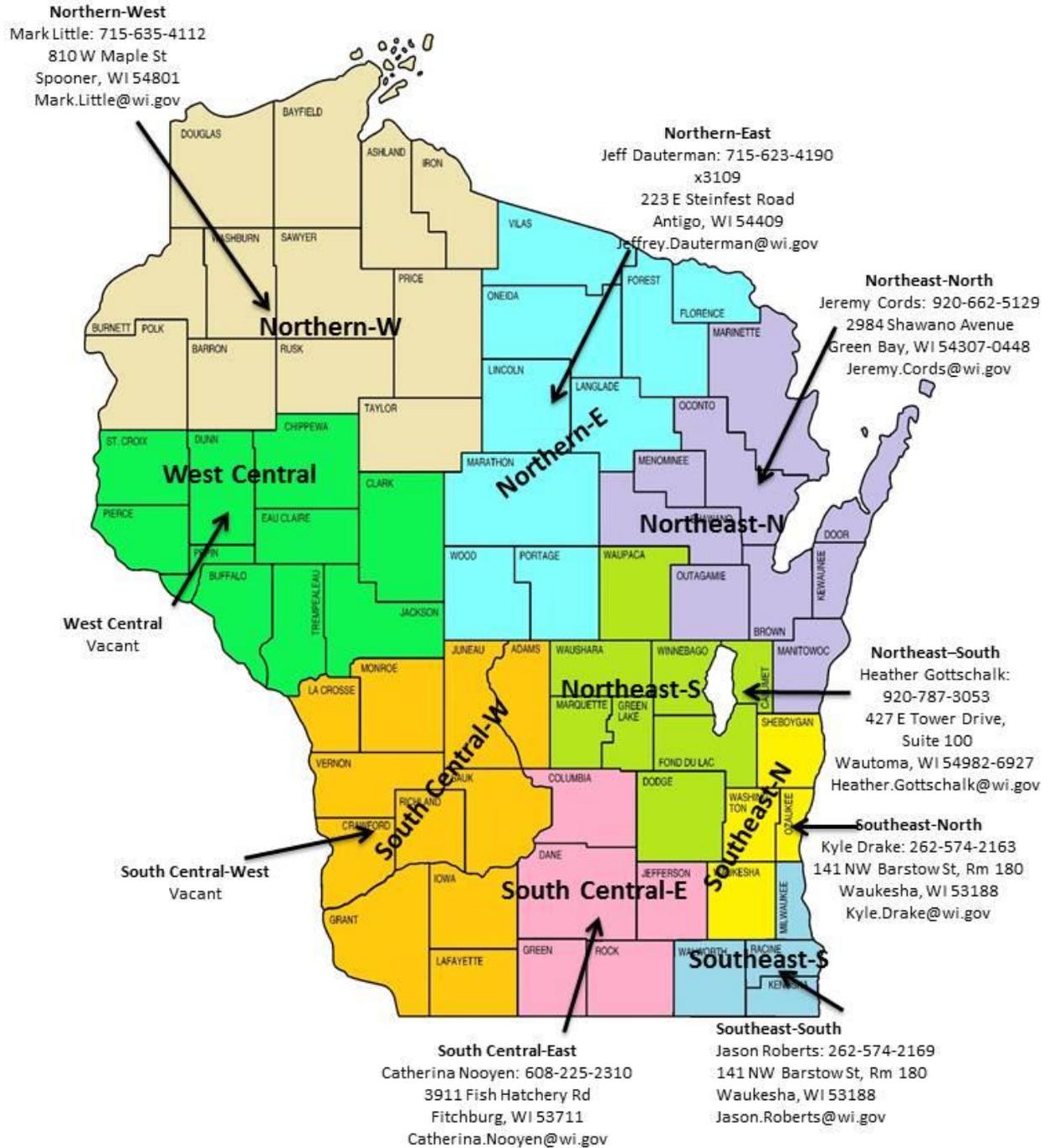
A report must be filed for any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician. Operators must file a written Operator Incident Report, Form 4100-174 within 10 days to the DNR.

● Number of UTV Fatalities ● Number of ATV Fatalities



Recreational Safety Warden Map

ATV/Snowmobile Law Administrator: Gary Eddy: 608/267-7544
 Julie Fitzgerald: 608/266-2142



HAVE FUN



A message
from your local
conservation
warden

BE SAFE

ENJOY WISCONSIN FROM THE TRAIL



Hauling anyone in the cargo box is unsafe and illegal. Aftermarket cargo box seats are illegal for all passengers.



All children under the age of 18 must have a minimum DOT Standard motorcycle or ATV helmet. Bicycle helmets are NOT legal.



UTVs are fun off-road vehicles capable of navigating rough terrain at higher speeds. Transporting very young children in a UTV is not recommended. Car seats are not required and are not a substitute for a legal helmet. Make sure to wear seatbelts, harnesses, etc.

LEUTVS10 2013

To view this report and a complete synopsis of the 2014 ATV fatalities visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/atv/atvCrashInfo.html>