

Ordinance Passes to Allow Off-Road Utility Vehicles on Marion Roadways

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Beginning Aug. 9, 2022, utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) will be allowed on Marion city streets. UTV operators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the equipment rules and restrictions outlined in the ordinance prior to operating a UTV in Marion.

Operators must be 18 or older and possess a valid driver's license. UTVs are only allowed to be in operation between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. at a maximum speed of 35 mph. They will be permitted on any city roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less, but may not be operated on Business 151/10th Avenue east of 35th Street or East Post Road south of Oak Brook Drive.

The full list of regulations can be found in [Chapter 75](#) of the Marion City Code. Notable items include:

- This ordinance only allows UTVs to be operated on City streets and does not apply to golf carts, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or snowmobiles. Refer to [Chapter 75](#) of the City Code for additional information.
- UTVs may only be operated on streets with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less but may not be operated on 10th Avenue (Business 151) east of 35th Street or East Post Road south of Oak Brook Drive.
- The maximum speed for UTVs is 35 mph.
- UTVs shall not be operated on City trails, in City parks (except driveways and parking lots), sidewalks or public waterways (whether frozen or not).
- Drivers must be 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license. They must be able to provide proof of insurance and DNR registration if requested.
- UTVs may only be operated on City streets between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Headlights and taillights must be on when the UTV is in motion.
- UTVs must adhere to all traffic and parking laws and regulations applicable to other motor vehicles.
- UTVs must be equipped with operational turn signals, speedometer, headlamps, tail lamps, brake lights and a rear-facing mirror.
- UTVs must conform to the Marion noise ordinance as described in Chapter 75.05.

- Seat belts, infant car seats and child seats must be used while the UTV is in motion.
- If so equipped, nets or doors on the UTV must be closed while in motion.
- The number of passengers may not exceed the number of factory-installed seats.
- Drivers shall not operate UTVs while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and no open containers of alcohol are allowed in the UTV while it is being operated.
- UTVs will not be operated carelessly or recklessly including unnecessary skidding or sliding.

Fines for violating certain sections of Chapter 75 begin at \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense in the same calendar year and \$855 for the third and subsequent offenses occurring within the same calendar year.

The ordinance is scheduled to be reviewed in six months.