



SCOOTER / UTV INFORMATION

Minnesota law enforcement and the general public currently have questions related to the use of motorized bicycles, scooters and electric-assisted bicycles. The following information is a brief overview of current state law as well as Oakdale City Ordinance pertaining to UTV's. For more complete regulations, consult state statute or Oakdale City Ordinances.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/>

<https://www.ci.oakdale.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/412/Chapter-12---Motor-Vehicles-and-Traffic-PDF?bidId=>





Motorized Foot Scooter (Statute 169.225)

- A device with handlebars designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator
- Powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion, and that has either;
 - (1) No more than two ten-inch or small diameter wheels or
 - (2) An engine or motor that is capable of a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on a flat surface.

Every person operating a motorized foot scooter shall have all rights and duties applicable to the operator of a bicycle, except in respect to those provisions relating expressly to motorized foot scooters and in respect to those provisions of law that by their nature cannot reasonably be applied to motorized foot scooters.

Sidewalk and passenger prohibition - No person may operate a motorized foot scooter upon a sidewalk, except when necessary to enter or leave adjacent property. No person may operate a motorized foot scooter that is carrying any person other than the operator.

Minimum age for operator - No person under the age of 12 years may operate a motorized foot scooter.

Protective headgear - No person under the age of 18 years may operate a motorized foot scooter without wearing properly fitted and fastened protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety.

Required lighting equipment - A motorized foot scooter must be equipped with a headlight and a taillight that comply with standards established by the commissioner of public safety if the vehicle is operated under conditions when vehicle lights are required by law.

Operation requirements and prohibitions -

- (a) A person operating a motorized foot scooter on a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except in the following situations:
 - (1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
 - (2) When preparing for a left turn, in which case the operator shall stop and dismount at the right-hand curb or right edge of the roadway, and shall complete the turn by crossing the roadway on foot, subject to restrictions placed by law on pedestrians; or
 - (3) when reasonably necessary to avoid impediments or conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge, including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes.
- (b) A person may operate a motorized foot scooter on a bicycle path, bicycle lane, bicycle trail, or bikeway that is not reserved for the exclusive use of non-motorized traffic, unless the local authority or governing body having jurisdiction over that path, lane, trail, or bikeway prohibits operation by law.

Motorized / Electric Assisted Bicycle (Moped) Requirements

Motorized Bicycle (Statute 169.223) (Includes Moped)

- Motor of a piston displacement capacity of 50 cubic centimeters (cc) or less
- Maximum of two brake horsepower
- Maximum speed of not more than 30mph on a flat surface
- Fully operable pedals for human propulsion are **not** required, but may be a part of the machine
- “Motorized Bicycle” includes Electric assisted Bicycle as listed below



Electric-Assisted Bicycle – “A motor vehicle with two or three wheels that:

- (1) Has a saddle and fully operable pedals for human propulsion;
- (2) Meets the requirements of federal motor vehicle safety standards
- (3) Has an electric motor that
 - (i) Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts,
 - (ii) Is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour,
 - (iii) Is incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power alone is used to propel the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, and
 - (iv) Disengages or ceases to function when the vehicles brakes are applied.”



**** The requirements for operating an electric-assisted bicycle are the same as for other motorized bicycles, except as specified in the following information. ****

License and Permits

Any person who has a valid driver's license may operate a motorized bicycle without taking any further tests or having an endorsement on the license. Anyone without a driver's license, regardless of age, must obtain a motorized bicycle operators permit.

Vehicle Registration

Motorized bicycles must be registered annually and display a current license plate. Registration and re-registration can be done at any DMV location.

Insurance

Motorized bicycle riders, regardless of age or license status, must have liability insurance. No-fault liability insurance is not required for electric-assisted bicycle operators.

Operating Rules

These rules and restrictions apply to operating motorized bicycles:

- Because of the relatively low speeds of motorized bicycles, you should ride in the traffic lane as far right on the roadway as possible, unless you are going to turn left. Electric-assisted bicycle operators may ride on the shoulder of the road going in the same direction as adjacent vehicular traffic.
- **Riding on sidewalks is not permitted** except where it would be necessary for a short distance to get from a driveway, alley or building to an adjacent roadway.
- Motorized bicycles are not allowed on lanes and trails that have been set aside for bicycles. (Electric-assisted bicycle operators may ride in a bicycle lane.)
- Motorized bicycles are not allowed on interstate freeways.
- A parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 also may ride on the motorized bicycle as a passenger or operator, if the motorized bicycle is equipped with a seat and foot rests for a second passenger.
- A motorized bicycle equipped with a headlight and taillight meeting the requirements of lighting for motorcycles may be operated during night time hours.
- No person under the age of 15 shall operate an electric-assisted bicycle.

Equipment and Gear

A motorized bicycle must meet the same lighting and brake requirements as a motorcycle, with a leadlight, and tail light with a stop signal capacity. The headlight must be on during all times of operation. A horn and mirror also are required safety equipment for a motorized bicycle. Motorized bicycle riders must wear eye protection. (Eye protection is recommended, but not required, for electric-assisted bicycle operators.) Motorized / Electric-assisted bicycle riders under 18 years old **must** wear a helmet.

Parking Rules

A person may park a motorized / Electric-assisted bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by local authorities. It must not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic.



This is what is commonly referred to as a Pocket Rocket. Unless meeting all the safety and equipment standards set forth in state law, the Pocket Rocket is **NOT** legal for street / highway or sidewalk use. It is limited to private property operation only.

CHAPTER 12

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

ARTICLE 8. UTILITY TASK VEHICLE OPERATION ON LOCAL CITY STREETS

Sec. 12-50. Purpose. Pursuant to its authority under MN Statutes § 169.045, the City authorizes the operation of utility task vehicles on designated public rights-of-way as permitted under this article.

Sec. 12-51. Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this article, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Authorized Operator. Only persons 18 years of age or older, possessing a valid Minnesota drivers license, may operate a UTV on designated public rights-of-ways.

Boulevard means the portion of the street rights-of-way between the curb line and the property line.

City means City of Oakdale, Minnesota.

Community and Special Events means events sponsored, co-sponsored, or supported by the City. Community and special events may also include celebrations approved by the City and organized by a nonprofit, community based organization intended to serve the entire community.

County means Washington County, Minnesota.

Cul-de-sac means a local city street with only one outlet and having a turnaround.

Easement means a grant by an owner of land for a specific use by persons other than owner.

Local City Street means a way for vehicular traffic, whether designated as street, highway, thoroughfare, parkway, throughway, road, avenue, boulevard, lane, place, drive, court, or otherwise designated to travel.

Owner means a person having a property interest or title to a Utility Task Vehicle and entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle.

Permit means sticker issued by the City and affixed to the UTV as described in Sec. 12-52.

Pedestrian Way means public rights-of-way across or within a block used by pedestrians.

Private Street means a street serving as a vehicular access to two or more parcels of land which is not dedicated to the public but is owned by one or more private parties.

Rights-of-Way means land covered by a public road or land dedicated for public use or for certain private use such as land over which a power line passes.

State means State of Minnesota.

Utility Task Vehicle or UTV means a vehicle with four wheels, four wheel drive, internal combustion engine with a displacement of no more than 1,200 cc engine, dry weight of 1,800 to 2,600 pounds, has side-by-side seating, can carry multiple passengers in a cab-like space, and often includes an open bed located behind the driver and passenger.

Sec. 12-52. Special Permit Required.

- (a) Required. No UTV may be operated on a designated public rights-of-way without first completing an application to receive a special permit from the City. Applicants shall agree to travel only on local city streets as so designated on the map provided with special permits.
- (b) Special Permit Location. A permit, in the form of a sticker and issued by the City is required to be affixed to the lower center windshield area or other easily visible location on the front center of the UTV.
- (c) Term of Special Permit. All special permits granted by the City shall expire December 31; however, permits may be revoked by the City at any time based on evidence of the authorized operator's inability to safely operate the vehicle.
- (d) Insurance. The applicant must provide, and submit as part of the special permit application process, evidence of motor vehicle insurance; every authorized operator of the UTV shall have proof of insurance in their possession while operating the UTV in the City and shall produce such proof of insurance on demand of a police officer.

Sec. 12-53. Operating Conditions.

- (a) Allowed Areas of Operation. UTVs displaying current City issued permits may be operated on all local streets under the jurisdiction of the City.
- (b) Restricted Areas of Operation. UTVs may not operate on:
 - (1) Any trail, boulevard, easement, pedestrian way, or rights-of-way outside of the roadways curb and gutter within the City.
 - (2) Public parks, open space, and natural areas;
 - (3) State and county roads, highways, and interstates;
 - (4) Any area posted prohibiting motorized vehicles;
 - (5) Union Pacific Railroad rights-of-way;
 - (6) Public or private property unless permission is posted by the property owner;
- (c) Crossing Intersecting State/County Highways and Local Streets. Authorized operators, under special permit, of a UTV may cross any state or county highway or local City street intersecting a designated public rights-of-way at a signalized intersection intersecting the designated public rights-of-way. The vehicle must be brought to a complete stop before crossing;
- (d) Time of Operation. UTVs may only be operated from sunrise to sunset unless original equipment includes headlights, taillights, and brake lights. UTVs shall not be operated in inclement weather or when visibility is impaired by weather or other condition, or at any time when there is insufficient light to clearly see persons and vehicles on the public rights-of-way at a distance of 500 feet.
- (e) UTV Safety Equipment Requirements. All UTVs shall have a rear view mirror as defined in MN Statutes § 169.70.
- (f) Application of Traffic Laws. Every person operating a UTV under special permit on designated public rights-of-way have all the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under MN Statutes § 169.045, Subd. 6, except when those provisions cannot be reasonably applied.
- (g) Parking of UTV. UTVs must be parked in designated public parking stalls or areas used by automobiles only. No parking is permitted on public sidewalks, public parks, public boulevard areas or other similar public areas.
- (h) Towing. UTVs may not be used to tow on any public property.
- (i) Exemptions:
 - (1) City Operations. The City police, fire, and public works departments are authorized to utilize UTVs to carry out their operations and are exempt from all requirements under this article.
 - (2) Golf Course Operations. Authorized UTVs utilized on property associated with the Oak Marsh Golf Course and Event Center are exempt from all requirements under this article.

- (3) Community or Special Events. UTVs on public streets during parades and special events by event organizers, and others authorized by the City for such use, are exempt from all requirements under this article. The police chief or his appointee shall determine if an event qualifies for the exemption. Notwithstanding the foregoing, additional conditions and/or restrictions may be imposed upon individuals authorized to use UTVs on City streets under this article.
- (4) Private Property. UTVs utilized on private property, by the property owner or with the property owner's express permission, are exempt from requirements of this article.

Sec. 12-54. Revocation of Permit. A special permit may be revoked at any time for violating any provision of this division and/or based on evidence of the authorized operator's inability to safely operate the vehicle by final determination of the police chief or his appointee.

Sec. 12-55. Appeal. Any special permit revocation may be appealed to the city council by providing a written request for an appeal within 10 business days of the revocation to the city clerk. The revocation will remain in full force and effect until the appeal process has been completed.

Sec. 12-56. Violation; Penalty. Any person violating the terms of this division may lose their special permit to operate a UTV on public rights-of-way in the City and, upon conviction for any such violation, may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished in accordance with the penalties established. (Ord. 878, 11/23/2021)