

SIDE-BY-SIDE RESPONSIBLE OPERATION



AgHealth
Central States
Center for Agricultural
Safety and Health



University of Nebraska
Medical Center™

A side-by-side, also known as a UTV (utility task/terrain vehicle) or ROV (recreational off-highway vehicle), is a larger type of ATV (all-terrain vehicle) designed to haul heavier loads and allow for additional passengers. Side-by-sides are off-road vehicles. On-road use of UTVs is limited to the restrictions set by state law. Although the controls on a side-by-side are like that of a car, they handle very differently.

SAFE DRIVING TIPS

TURNING

- Use extra care when turning
- Slow down before entering turns
- Avoid sudden or hard acceleration when making tight turns from a standstill or at slow speeds
- Avoid sideways sliding, skidding, or fishtailing
- **Never do donuts**

BACKING UP

- Use caution
- Keep speeds low
- Ensure the path behind you is clear

MANAGING HILLS

- Avoid hills with slippery surfaces
- Drive straight up and down inclines, not across them
- If crossing a hill can't be avoided, drive slowly and turn down hill immediately if you feel the vehicle may tip
- When cresting a hill or approaching a blind curve, slow your vehicle and move as far right as possible on the trail. Always assume another vehicle is coming the other way.
- Yield to those traveling up hill

IF YOUR VEHICLE STARTS TO TIP OR FEELS LIKE IT MIGHT BE ROLLING OVER...

- NEVER place your arms or legs outside the vehicle. You will NOT be able to stop the vehicle from tipping over by using your body.
- Brace your feet against the floorboards and hold tight to the steering wheel or passenger handholds.
- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Always follow the instructions and warnings in your owner's manual.
- Do NOT place any part of your body outside the vehicle during operation.

GET IN TOUCH

402-552-3394

go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact

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HAZARD AVOIDANCE

- **S - Search:** Search ahead, to the sides, and behind, to avoid potential hazards before they arise. Search for other vehicles, pedestrians or animals, pathway characteristics (tight corners, etc.), surface characteristics (ice, mud, etc.), obstacles, and low hanging branches.
- **E - Evaluate:** Consider how hazards can combine to create risks for you. Anticipate risks and have a plan to reduce risks.
- **E - Execute:** Carry out your decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

TREAD lightly!

T - Travel responsibly

R - Respect the rights of others

E - Educate yourself

A - Avoid sensitive areas

D - Do your part



**Learn more about
how to TREAD lightly**

[treadlightly.org/learn/
recreation-tips/utvohving](https://treadlightly.org/learn/recreation-tips/utvohving)

SHARE THE OUTDOORS

Be considerate others on the trail. Yield the right of way to those passing or traveling up hill. Keep speeds low around crowds. Keep the noise and dust to a minimum.

SAFE RIDING PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Source: Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association

- ☐ Always wear your seatbelt properly, wear proper PPE, and keep all parts of your body inside the side-by-side.
- ☐ Do not drive on paved surfaces. Side-by-sides are designed to be operated off-highway only.
- ☐ Drive only in designated areas, at a safe speed, and use care when turning and crossing slopes.
- ☐ Never drive or ride as a passenger under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ☐ Do not drive a side-by-side unless you are 16 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license.
- ☐ Never carry more passengers than the side-by-side is designed for, never allow passengers to ride in the back bed of a side-by-side, and never allow a passenger that is too small to sit securely in the side-by-side.
- ☐ Read and follow the owner's manual and warning labels.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Recreational Off-
Highway Vehicle
Association



CS-CASH:
Side-by-side
Safety Flyer



Polaris:
Safety Videos