

SIDE-BY-SIDE SAFETY



WHAT IS A SIDE-BY-SIDE?

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.

KEY RISK FACTORS

Driving behavior is the leading factor in side-by-side injuries. No matter how safely your side-by-side is designed, poor driving habits or judgment can lead to injury or death.

Behaviors that increase risk level:

- Improper use of the side-by-side
- Not wearing a seat belt, or wearing a seat belt improperly
- Not wearing proper protective gear
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

Other factors that can increase risk level:

- Vehicle load
- Vehicle modifications
- Surface terrain



UNDERSTAND YOUR VEHICLE

Although the controls on a side-by-side are like that of a car, they will handle very differently. All side-by-sides are equipped with seat belts, handholds, and a Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS). The combination of these features, when used properly, will reduce the risk of injury.

Read your owner's manual for specific details about your vehicle. It is the best source of information on your specific vehicle. Safety labels on the vehicle should be left in place and reviewed before driving the vehicle.

GET IN TOUCH

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OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY

Drivers of a side-by-side should be at least 16 years of age, have a valid driver's license, be familiar with state laws regarding side-by-side use, and be able to put both feet flat on the floorboard while seated upright with their back against the seat back.

PROPER PPE

Even with vehicle safety features, proper PPE is required:

- **Compliant motorcycle helmet** that fits properly
- **Face shield, goggles, or protective sports eyewear**
- **Gloves**, including padding over knuckles, that offer a combination of protection and comfort
- **Long-sleeved shirt or jacket** to protect from cuts and scratches, exposure to sun, etc.
- **Long pants** to protect from cuts and scratches
- **Over-the-ankle boots** with good traction

Both drivers AND passengers need to wear proper PPE. Additional PPE to consider is hearing protection, as long-term exposure to engine and wind noise can cause hearing damage.

PRE-OPERATION SAFETY CHECKS

A pre-operation safety check should be completed every time before a side-by-side is used. Refer to your owner's manual for pre-operation safety check information specific to your vehicle. Generally, the T-CLOC check can be used:

- T** - Tires and wheels
- C** - Controls and cables
- L** - Lights and electronics
- O** - Oil, fuel, fluids, and air filter
- C** - Chassis, suspension, driveshaft, and external equipment



Find our pre-operation inspection checklist at go.unmc.edu/cs-cash-pre-operation-inspection

PASSENGER SAFETY

Every passenger **MUST** be able to:

- Wear a seat belt properly
- Put both feet flat on the floorboard while seated upright with their back against the seat back
- Be able to reach and hold the passenger handholds while remaining seated

Passengers should wear appropriate PPE and never sit in the back bed of the side-by-side.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association



CS-CASH:
Side-by-side
Responsible
Operation Flyer



Polaris:
Safety Videos