

June 2006

## Summertime Funtime with Off-Road Vehicles

With kids out of school for the summer, and quads or dirt bikes in the garage, some dusty fun is bound to happen. Riding off-road vehicles continues to be a growing sport that both young and not-so-young folks enjoy. And as with any sport or activity though, responsibility beckons.

As young riders speed up and down dirt roads, alleyways, or washes, or do tricks on vacant dirt lots, they may not think about responsibility. They may not think about the dust they kick up wafting into neighbor's yards or homes or lungs. They may not think about the frequent wiping to keep dust off furniture. They may not think about the backyard barbeques that have been ruined. They may not think about airborne dust being a harmful pollutant affecting people's health. They are just having fun.

And fun, they should have. And neighbors should also be able to breathe, have backyard barbecues, and well...even dust furniture less! So, in order to have all this, people need to ride responsibly. If riding, make sure your kids (and you):

- Avoid riding in residential areas;
- Reduce speed on dirt roads, in dry areas, or if you see too much dust kicking up;
- Keep "tracks" away from property boundaries;
- Water or use another dust suppressant effectively on "tracks";
- Avoid powdery, silty-soil areas;
- Do not ride on storage piles at construction sites or other areas;
- Keep out of washes. It is illegal to operate off-road motorized vehicles in any publicly-owned wash, waterway, or open area; and
- Avoid revving your engine for no reason.

Click on [http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/outdoor\\_recreation/ohv/atv\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/outdoor_recreation/ohv/atv_brochure.pdf) for the Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Laws, Rules, and Regulations brochure published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Click on Pima County zoning ordinances at <http://www.pima.gov/cob/code/c18a5.html#543> for information regarding off-road riding on private property, especially chapter 18.07.030 land use regulations, section M. To learn more about off-road riding and where you can ride, click on the following websites:

- Arizona Game and Fish: [www.gf.state.az.us](http://www.gf.state.az.us)
- Arizona State Land: [www.land.state.az.us](http://www.land.state.az.us)
- Bureau of Land Management: [www.az.blm.gov](http://www.az.blm.gov)
- Public Lands Information Center: [www.publiclands-usa.org](http://www.publiclands-usa.org)

Our actions make a difference. Protect your health and the environment. Keep dust down!

Questions or concerns? Click or call: [www.deq.pima.gov/air/NEAP/dustinfo.html](http://www.deq.pima.gov/air/NEAP/dustinfo.html), [karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov](mailto:karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov), or 740.3345.