

Media Release

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Killam / Forestburg RCMP remind riders to stay safe on ATVs and UTVs this winter

Killam, Alta. – ATVs and UTVs are popular for winter activities, from recreational trail riding to practical uses like snow clearing. However, icy terrain, unpredictable weather, and low visibility can make winter riding especially dangerous.

Killam / Forestburg RCMP offers the following advice for safe and responsible use of ATV's and UTV's during the winter months:

- Equip your ATV or UTV with winter tires or track kits for better traction on snow and ice.
- Check tire pressure, as colder weather can cause air pressure to drop.
- Ensure your engine has the appropriate amount of anti-freeze.
- Switch to winter-grade oil to maintain proper engine performance in low temperatures.
- Use hand guards, heated grips and a windshield to protect yourself from the cold.
- Attach a winch for emergencies, such as getting stuck in the snow.
- Attach reflective decals and lights to your vehicle to increase visibility in low-light conditions.
- Use designated trails and adhere to local regulations, including speed limits and helmet requirements.
- Never assume that ice is thick enough to support an ATV or UTV. Ice thickness can vary and certain weather conditions can make it unpredictable.
- Avoid riding alone in remote areas.
- Carry a communication device, such as a GPS or mobile phone, in case of emergencies.
- Bring a winter emergency kit, including a first aid kit, tools, a tow strap, extra fuel, and a thermal blanket.
- Slow down on icy and snowy trails to maintain control and avoid accidents.
- Make sure your battery is fully charged and the connections are all secure.
- Check trail conditions before heading out.
- Obey speed limits and signage, and avoid riding on restricted or private properties. Many accidents occur when riders venture off designated trails.

For more tips on how you can protect yourself from mail theft, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

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