

## Ride Right for Safety

As off-highway vehicle recreation becomes more popular, riders must deal with something they went off-road to avoid: traffic. Having a good strategy for dealing with traffic becomes even more important on OHV routes because there are no painted lines on the trail, no traffic control devices like signs or lights, and sight lines can be extremely limited.

A strategy being promoted by Backcountry Discovery Routes (<https://ridebdr.com/rideright/>) is to Ride Right, adapted from the National Safety Council. To practice the Ride Right strategy, remember the “Four R’s”:

**READ THE ROAD AHEAD:** Always scan the trail ahead of you while noting the hazards around you. The farther ahead you scan, the better. Take a position on the trail that increases your sight distance.

**RIDE TO THE RIGHT:** Driving to the right means that, wherever possible, you should be on the right side of a road or trail. In the US on the street, by law and convention, oncoming traffic passes on the left. Licensed drivers already tend to move to the right to avoid collisions. Take advantage of first instincts.

**REDUCE YOUR SPEED:** Slow down to increase the time and space you have to respond to hazards. Slowing down by 30, 20, or even just 10 MPH can make the difference between life and death.

**RIDE OFF THE ROAD:** As a last resort, riding off the road means you slow down and merge onto the shoulder or grass to your right in order to avoid a head-on collision. If there’s no good escape route to the right, slow down even more.



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Additional tips include:

- Look for clues of other trail users, such as hauling vehicles at trailheads and dust

clouds ahead in the distance.

- Be visible. Wear bright colors and ride with your lights on if your OHV is so equipped.
- Having a quiet OHV means you are more likely to hear other sources of sound around you. 🚫🚫🚫