

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Off-Highway fun results in trespass charges.

PARKLAND COUNTY, AB. Touring around the countryside on quads Sunday morning resulted in charges under the *Petty Trespass Act* for two men who were riding on a farm south of Stony Plain.

“We received a call from the landowner Sunday morning indicating there were people driving their quads on his property without permission,” said Pete Morris, Supervisor, Patrol Services. “A patrol car was dispatched to the location and two men were stopped and charged with trespassing. If convicted under the *Petty Trespass Act*, each man faces a fine of \$287.00.”

Provincial legislation and municipal bylaws are in place for the safe operation of off-highway vehicles in the County. Parkland County’s Community Peace Officers are authorized to enforce off-highway use under both municipal and provincial legislation.

“If residents have concerns about off-highway vehicles, whether it is trespassing or other offences, they should call Parkland County Patrol Services at 780-968-8400, which is a 24-hour complaint line,” said Morris. “Patrol Services operates seven days a week. Our Emergency Communications Centre picks up messages and dispatches them to the Community Peace Officer on duty. In this latest incident, we received the call Sunday morning and we responded to the complainant within 22 minutes.”

Off-highway vehicle operators face significant fines for provincial offences:

- Operating an off-highway vehicle under the age of 14 years - \$115.00
- Permitting a person under the age of 14 years to operate an off-highway vehicle - \$115.00
- Operating an off-highway vehicle on private land without owner’s consent - \$287.00

- more -
"Off-highway fun"

- Operating an uninsured off-highway vehicle on private land without owner's consent - \$230.00
- Careless driving - \$402.00
- Unauthorized operation on a highway - \$230.00
- Failure to stop before crossing a highway - \$230.00
- Failure to yield right-of-way to other class of vehicle - \$172.00
- Failure to stop for and/or provide required information to a Peace Officer - \$172.00

Under Parkland County's bylaw, offenders will be fined \$100.00 for a first offence, \$250.00 for a second offence, and \$500.00 for all subsequent offences.

"Although Patrol Services enforces the legislation, education is a key component for us," said Morris. "We have plenty of information on safe operation of off-highway vehicles, we have gone to schools to educate kids, and we are often invited to make presentations at organized clubs. We also have a brochure that outlines the rules and regulations for Parkland County, and we are always available to answer any questions anyone might have."

Visit the Parkland County website for more information on the Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw 60-2003 or by calling Protective Services at 780-968-8400.

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Parkland County is a rural municipality located immediately west of Edmonton. Covering an area of 246,462 hectares (609,007 acres), it is one of the largest in size and one of the highest populated of all rural municipalities in Alberta. Parkland County has grown to a community of over 29,000 people and has seen generations of families continue to enjoy country living.

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