

Rules and Regulations of Riding

State Legal License Plates:

Off-Highway Vehicles driven on and off the public roads must have a valid, “street-legal” license plate visibly displayed.

Red and Green Stickers:

Issued by Department of Motor Vehicles, these stickers denote when you are allowed to ride your OHV. A green sticker means the vehicle may be used year-round. A red sticker signifies restricted use and is issued to vehicles from 2003 onward which do not meet air quality emission standards for California.

Out-of-State Riders:

If you are not a California resident, and your vehicle is not registered with your home state, you can purchase a Non-Resident OHV Permit for \$30. To find a local permit vendor, visit http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25669.

A Caution to Riders

Johnson Valley is a prime riding area for Off-Highway Vehicles. All riders need to remember it is also the home of the Desert Tortoise – an animal identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species, making the tortoise protected under the Endangered Species Act. According to the Endangered Species Act, humans are not to kill, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, or collect a tortoise.

If you come across a Desert Tortoise while riding, do not disturb it. If you believe the tortoise is in immediate danger of being injured by vehicle traffic, you may move it to a position of safety – when conditions are safe for you to do so. Pick the tortoise up by the sides of its shell, keeping it close to the ground as if it were still walking. Move it no further than 100 yards and ensure it is facing the same direction it was traveling.



This brochure was printed on 100% recycled paper.



Little Known Dangers of Off-Road Riding

Riding Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) in the desert is an activity that several of our Marines, sailors, their families, local residents and visitors participate in, but many are unaware of all the possible dangers they may encounter while riding. Riders also need to recognize they are not only at risk when they ride, but they can put local wildlife in danger as well.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)



Designated off-highway riding areas are located near the boundary of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC). It is your responsibility to ride only in these designated areas. All areas of the Combat Center are off limits.

Occasionally, individuals venture onto the Combat Center, remove unexploded ordnance, and transport them outside of MCAGCC's boundaries, where you may encounter them while riding. Some examples of UXO are missiles, artillery, mortars, or rounds fired by tanks, (see panel to the left for examples). Some UXO are not commonly identifiable. A good rule of thumb: If you can't easily identify an object, you may have found UXO and should report it immediately.

A common misconception is that unexploded ordnance are "duds" and safe to move. This is not the case. Many UXO become more sensitive once they fail to function as designed. The slightest touch or movement can cause UXO to explode, which can seriously harm anyone in the immediate area.



How to Report Unexploded Ordnance

- 1 Do not touch, poke, prod or otherwise disturb any UXO. Just because it was fired and did not explode, does not mean it is safe. Stay at least 300 meters away.
- 2 Contact the local police or California Highway Patrol if you discover anything that is questionable or you suspect is UXO.
- 3 Provide the Police with a description of the UXO from MEMORY. Do not stay near or re-approach the object just to describe it.
- 4 Stay in the area until the police arrive. They will need your help to locate the UXO in the middle of the vast open spaces. If you cannot stay in the area until the police arrive, give them specific directions on how to get to the UXO site.