

RMWB Bylaw Services

Off-Highway Vehicle Compliance Strategy for the Fort McMurray Urban Service Area

Background

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw 98/078, the Traffic Safety Act and the Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation, regulate and control Off-Highway Vehicle usage in the Fort McMurray Urban Service Area. The RMWB's Bylaw Services Branch, along with the RCMP, are jointly responsible for the education and enforcement of key sections within the legislation.

Since January 1, 2022, employees of the Bylaw Services Branch have dealt with 153 incidents for persons in the RMWB contravening the Urban Services Area Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw, and Provincial Acts or Regulations, including but not limited to:

Persons are operating Off-Highway Vehicles ("OHV") in the Municipality's Urban Service Area (113 incidents)

OHVs are being operated without required Insurance and Registration (3 case reports)

It should be noted that since 2019, Bylaw Services Officers have focused enforcement activities regarding OHV use on the two-prong approach of education and awareness; the goal being to educate OHV users so that they are aware of the relevant Municipal Bylaws, Provincial Acts and Regulations and how they apply to OHV use in the region. The approach has focused on proactive attempts to prevent future non-compliance. Traditionally, Officer contact with OHVs and their operators has occurred when the OHV is being loaded or off-loaded in a staging area or in "Non-moving" traffic situations.

Objectives

The OHV Compliance Strategy focuses on OHV use in the Fort McMurray Urban Service Area and is intended to achieve the following three objectives:

- 1. Enhance public awareness of the rules governing OHV use**
- 2. Consistency and clarity in response to non-compliances**
- 3. Increase levels of voluntary compliance, particularly in residential neighborhoods and areas with high pedestrian traffic**



Strategy Framework

To meet the identified objectives, the OHV Compliance Strategy expands the RMWB's current approach to achieving compliance of the laws governing OHV use in the Urban Services Area. It adopts strategies that expand beyond the current two-prong approach of education and awareness.

Strategy #1: Traffic Stops

Enforcement Officers will attempt to minimize or prevent unapproved use of OHVs through traffic stops on municipal property and in high pedestrian traffic areas. Conducting traffic stops will enable Officers to detect and respond to any contravention of the municipality's bylaws or provincial statutes or regulations.

Strategy #2: Directed Enforcement

Enforcement Officers will conduct enforcement operations in areas that have been heavily reported or identified as a particular area of concern for unauthorized OHV use. Opportunities for joint-operations with RCMP will be pursued. Traffic stops will be conducted by the RCMP and Community Peace Officers to detect and respond to any contravention of the municipality's bylaws or provincial statutes or regulations.

Strategy # 3: Safety and Quality-of-Life Infractions

Enforcement Officers will focus efforts on identifying and responding to OHV infractions that impact public or user safety or where the infraction may negatively impact quality of life for residents. Examples include:

Section/Act	Offence Description	Penalty
Bylaw 98/078	Operate Off-Highway Vehicle in Urban Services Area	Unspecified or \$50 under General Penalties Bylaw
Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation	Carrying a Passenger under 14 who is not wearing a helmet	\$162
Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation	Drive OHV w/o License Plate Securely attached/legible/clearly visible	\$81
Traffic Safety Act	Drive OHV on Hwy w/o authorization	\$324
Traffic Safety Act	Drive Uninsured OHV	\$324
Traffic Safety Act	Drive/Permit another to drive OHV w/o Registration	\$162
Traffic Safety Act	OHV Fail to Provide Requested info to P.O.	\$243
Traffic Safety Act	Driver of OHV Fail to Stop for P.O.	\$243
Traffic Safety Act	Carelessly Drive OHV	\$567



Strategy # 4: Enhanced Awareness Campaign

When people know the rules, it is easier to follow them. When people understand the consequences for violating the rules, it may help to incentivize them to follow the rules. The Bylaw Services Branch and Communications Department will focus an enhanced public awareness campaign on educating the public about the following:

1. The rules for OHV use contained in the OHV Urban Service Area Bylaw, Traffic Safety Act, and the Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation;
2. The fines and other consequences for contravening these rules; and
3. Encouraging calls for service from the public when contraventions are taking place, including the information that may assist the Bylaw Services branch to take enforcement action.

