

May 9th event at Straddleline ORV Park will feature free inspections of equipment and safety for off-road vehicles

Local News

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OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will present an ORV Safety Summit, a free event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, May 9, at Straddleline ORV Park, located on State Route 8 between McCleary and Olympia. The event is designed to give users of off-road vehicles (four-wheel, all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles ridden on trails) tips to ride safely and avoid damage to lands and natural resources. Authorities say most ORV-related fatalities could be avoided if users followed safety guidelines and took advantage of training classes. Those attending the DNR Safety Summit will have opportunities for free: Rider skills testing Noise and equipment inspections of their ORVs Test rides of new ORVs Safety seminars Search and rescue tips Drawings for prizes donated by local ORV dealers and local businesses and public agencies

No advance registration is required for the event. “Here’s an opportunity for new and experienced riders alike to learn and refresh their skills for a safe riding season this summer,” says Larry Raedel, DNR’s Chief of Law Enforcement Services. Chief Raedel says the event is part of DNR’s commitment to teach the public about safety, enforce state regulations on public lands, and help ensure safe, enjoyable, and sustainable use on the state trust lands that are open to the public. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that among the 150,000 ORV-related injuries treated in emergency rooms each year nationally, about 27 percent are to children and teens under age 19. An additional 23,800 children and teens across the nation receive emergency room treatment each year for off-road motorcycle injuries. The event will be hosted by Straddleline ORV Park in partnership with the Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance..