

## 4WDers find: Off-roading needs special driving skill

Operating a four-wheel drive vehicle off a paved road is not difficult, although it does require skills and abilities beyond those needed for normal driving. These skills are necessary to protect the vehicle itself and, more importantly, the land on which it is operated.

International Harvester, the manufacturers of Scout sports/utility vehicles, notes that responsible vehicle operation off paved roads is necessary in order to help keep back-country areas open to vehicles.

Certain groups have urged that various public lands be closed to four-wheel drive vehicles because of the potential damage they may cause to the land.

International Harvester explains that four-wheel drive vehicles can be operated off paved roads in a responsible manner so as not to harm the land. The manufacturer has produced a booklet titled "Take A Stand To Save The Land," available at International Scout dealers, which details responsible driving techniques.

Ideally, vehicles should be operated on established roads or vehicle trails and not driven on any live plant growth. Wide-base tires will help reduce soil compaction. Drivers should avoid spinning their wheels, as this can cause rutting and disturb plants.

Littering, of course, should definitely be avoided. It's also a good idea to pick up any other trash encountered along the trails.

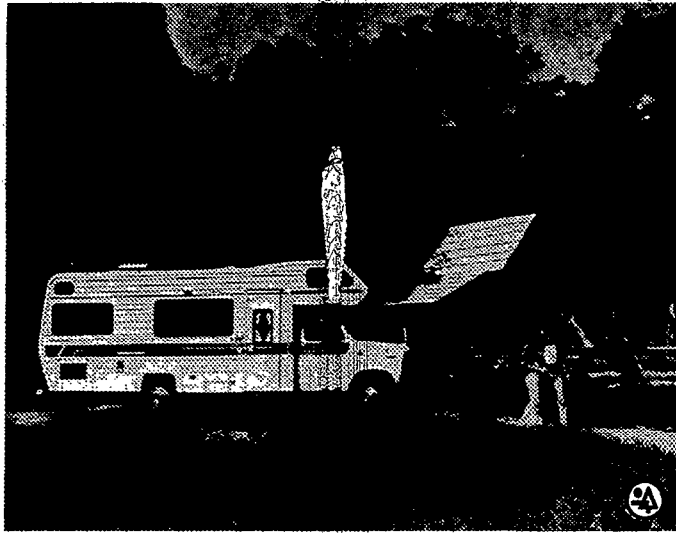
A four-wheel drive vehicle operator should always carry a shovel, tow-chain, and first-aid kit in case of any trouble along the trail.

Tire chains, warm clothing, and provisions should also be carried, depending on the time of year of travel.

Driving off paved roads requires special courtesy considerations. Passing an on-coming vehicle on a narrow trail may require a discussion by both drivers as to the best possible maneuver.

Other back-country trail users, like hikers and horseback riders, demand special attention when passing, as well.

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Driving off of paved roads requires skills and abilities beyond those needed for normal driving. A special sense of responsibility is also necessary to prevent any potential harm a vehicle may do to the land.

## RG&E consumer news

# Future Shock? Protect Yourself With A Ground-Fault Interrupter

Every time you carelessly use an electric appliance, you take your life in your hands.

Escaping electric current from faulty equipment or appliances always tries to return to the ground. It naturally chooses the easiest path. As illustrated below, this path can be your body if you happen to have direct contact with the ground. Water is a good conductor and, in these cases, affords the connection to complete the circuit.

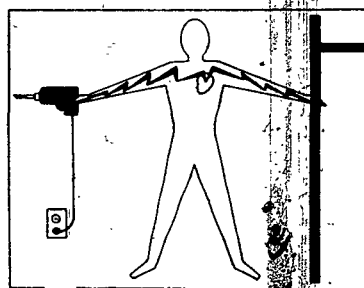
How can you protect yourself if a malfunction of the circuit occurs? The answer is the ground-fault interrupter, or GFI.

A GFI is a small device which, when mounted on a circuit or outlet, will detect current leaks (also called ground faults) from a circuit. The GFI senses leaks that are far too small for a fuse or circuit breaker to detect, but still

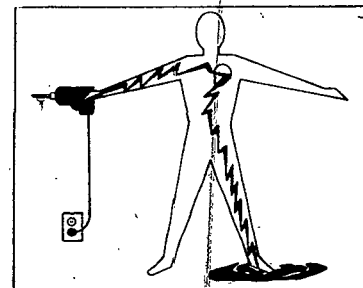
are large enough to be lethal. It immediately switches off the electricity, before damage can occur.

Ground-fault interrupters are so essential for electrical safety, especially outdoors where puddles and damp ground are common, that the National Electrical Code has made them mandatory in many areas. You now must have a GFI on any outdoor outlet, on all electrical equipment used with storable swimming pools, and even on any bathroom outlet.

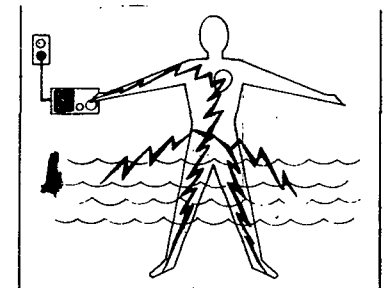
How do you purchase a GFI? Call your electrician and he'll install one. Or you can check with an electrical supply house, a department store, a building supply house, or a hardware store. For additional information, call RG&E's Residential Department at 546-2700, extension 2751. This one small investment could be a real life-saver.



Hand to hand shock path



Hand to foot shock path



Hand to submerged body shock path

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