

SAFELY OPERATING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

According to the Department of Health and Humans Services, workers over the age of 65 are at higher risk than younger workers for ATV accidents. Rollovers are the most common cause of ATV accidents. ATVs require constant attention to avoid accidents. Before anyone is allowed to ride an ATV, the instruction/safety book should be thoroughly reviewed, and all rules followed. An ATV is not a toy. No one should be allowed to operate the vehicle unless he/she is completely trained on how to use it safely.

The following are general safety rules from the Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines should not be substituted for specific rules provided by your ATV manufacturer.

Employers:

- Provide helmet and eye protection for workers and encourage the use of other personal protective equipment.
- Identify and mark- and eliminate if possible- hazards such as excavations, trenches, and guy wires that might be present in specific work environments, so they are easily seen and avoided by workers on the job.
- Establish operating and maintenance policies that follow the manufacturer's terrain guidelines, specific hauling and towing capacity, and passenger restrictions.
- Provide employees access to hands-on training by an ATV Safety Institute instructor or similarly qualified instructor.
- Share responsibility with employees on the practices detailed below.
- Never allow a child to ride a full-size ATV.

Employees:

- Wear PPE including helmet, eye protection, long pants, and boots.
- Participate in hands on training in the safe handling and operation of an ATV.
- Conduct pre-ride inspections of breaks, headlights etc., and follow employer's maintenance policies for upkeep.
- Be aware of potential hazards such as trees, ruts, rocks, streams, and gullies and follow posted hazard warnings.
- Drive at speeds safe for weather and terrain and never operate ATVs on surfaces not designed for ATVs such as paved roads and highways.
- Never permit passengers on the ATV, unless the ATV has an additional seat specifically designed to carry them.
- Never operate an ATV under the use of drugs or alcohol.

