

ATV Safety

Spring has sprung! The weather is getting warmer and people are excited to get outside. It is also prime weather for ATV (all-terrain vehicle) riding. ATVs are useful in a variety of agricultural tasks, including pesticide application, checking on livestock, examining fence lines, and carrying materials. Whether you are riding for work or recreation, it is imperative to remember the basic safety rules. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that you:

- Get trained,
- Wear a helmet,
- Don't allow children on adult ATV's,
- Don't ride tandem-(One seat, one rider!),
- Don't ride on the pavement, and
- Don't ride under the influence.



In addition, you should control your speed and supervise children on ATVs.

Image courtesy of

<http://nasdonline.org/document/1898/d001830/safe-use-of-atvs-in-agriculture.html>

According to the CPSC, 357 people died and another 113,900 were injured in 2002 as a result of ATV crashes. This represents a 67% increase in deaths from 1997. Injuries doubled in the same time frame. The numbers continue to increase every year. There The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is not required to regulate ATVs. In addition, many states do not require an age limit, license, or training to operate an ATV. You are responsible for your own safety and the safety of your family. It is not always easy or popular to be safe, but it is far better than becoming part of the statistics mentioned above.

Contact your local dealer to find out about ATV training opportunities. Training may be available at not cost. Remember most ATV crashes can be prevented by simply following the safety recommendations above.

Resources

<http://www.atvsafety.gov/safetytips.html>

<http://www.atvsafety.gov/stats.html>

<http://nasdonline.org/document/993/d000976/atv-safety-packet.html>

<http://www.atv-youth.org/>