

TAKE ACTION

to prevent All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) injuries



“ATVs aren’t toys, they’re powerful, very heavy machines. I think if people understood this, there would be a lot fewer injuries.”

“I’m glad I took the training. ATVs are harder to control than they look.”

“As a family, we have fun with our ATVs. It’s important to us that we model safe riding to keep our kids safe.”

“We don’t let our son ride ATVs. It’s just not worth the risk.”

Quick Facts

- ATVs cause more injuries than any other consumer product.
- ATV rolls and flips are the most common causes of serious ATV injuries and deaths. Rolls and flips can happen even on flat ground.
- Children less than 16 have a higher risk for injury and death on ATVs.

Protect Children and Youth

Children and youth can get hurt riding ATVs because they have less strength, control, coordination, and judgment than adults.

- Nobody under 16 years of age should operate an adult ATV.
- Youth-sized ATVs **might** reduce the risk of injury.
- Use questions from *The North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks* (www.nagcat.org) to find out if your child is ready to ride a youth-size ATV for chores.
- Only let your child or youth ride an ATV that is made for their age, weight, and maturity.
- Follow manufacturers’ recommendations.
- Make sure your child or youth is always supervised by an adult. This means always being close and watching their use of the ATV.

Protect your Head

Most people who die in ATV crashes suffered a head injury.

- Wear an approved ATV helmet with face and eye protection.
- Wear sturdy gloves and long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Wear boots that cover the ankles and have heels to prevent feet from slipping off the foot rests.

Drive Sober – Alcohol, drugs and ATVs don’t mix

Alcohol makes ATV injuries and deaths more likely to happen.

- Do not use any alcohol or drugs when using an ATV. Even a small amount will make it harder to think and act quickly.
- Drinking alcohol and using an ATV could result in being charge for impaired driving by the police.

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Protect Passengers

- Do not carry or be a passenger on ATVs built for one person.
 - A passenger on an ATV built for one person makes it harder for a driver to stop, turn or shift their weight.
 - A passenger will make the ATV less balanced and more likely to roll or flip.
- Only carry one passenger on an ATV built for two people in the designated passenger seat.
 - Never carry a passenger less than 12 years of age or one that is too small to grab the hand rails or put their feet on the footrests.

Get Trained


ATVs weigh hundreds of kilograms and require specific skills from the driver.

- Get hands-on training to learn how to avoid ATV flips, rolls and crashes.
- Look for ATV training courses offered through respected organizations such as:
 - **Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association**, call 403-673-3332 or go to: www.aohva.com
 - **Alberta Safety Council**, call toll free 1-800-301-6407 or go to: www.safetycouncil.ab.ca

For more information on ATV safety:

- The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT): www.nagcat.org (enter search word, **ATV**.)
- Canadian Off-Highway Vehicles Distributors Council: www.catv.ca
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.atvsafety.gov

In your community contact:



Learn more about injury prevention. Learn more about how to prevent injuries from affecting you and your family. Call us at *the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research*, 780-492-6019. You can also send us an e-mail at acicr@ualberta.ca or visit our website at www.acicr.ualberta.ca.