



Safe ATV Operation: Frequently Asked Questions

January 2005

Resources* on safe youth all-terrain vehicle (ATV) operation that health departments need to know.

What specific legal requirements are mandated by my state?

- State specific requirements, www.svia.org/InfoSheets/StateReq_0803.pdf.
- “All-Terrain Vehicle Legislation for Children: A Comparison of a State With and a State Without a Helmet Law” The article concludes the importance of helmet use. Available at www.pediatrics.org.

What public policy recommendations exist for youth ATV users?

- The American Academy of Pediatrics ATV Policy statement outlines recommended age guidelines, <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;105/6/1352>.
- The petition of the Consumer Federation of America to restrict ATV use by youth under 16 years, www.consumerfed.org/atv_petition.pdf.
- The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers a position statement recommending age limits, www.aaos.org/wordhtml/papers/position/1101.htm.

What are the manufacturers’ recommendations for engine size for youth operators?

- Manufacturers recommend ATVs with an engine size of 90cc or greater for those 16 years and older; 70cc to 90cc for youth ages 12-15; and less than 70cc for ages 6-11.

What are guidelines for recreational use?

- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission comments on where and how to ride an ATV, www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/540.pdf.
- Rider safety tips on appropriate attire, trail etiquette, engine size, and where to ride, www.doc.n4h.org/programsinfo/atv/safety_tips_brochure.pdf.

What safety equipment should be used?

- Safety tips for families, www.caringforkids.cps.ca/keepingkidssafe/ATV.htm.
- The ATV Safety Institute offers tips on rider training, gear, and a pre-ride checklist, www.atvsafety.org/.
- The right fit for an ATV helmet, http://4wheeldrive.about.com/cs/beginningatv/a/atvriderhelmets_2.htm.

What are the occupational guidelines?

- The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks were developed by the [National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety](http://www.nagcat.org/poster/GenActy/ATV.htm) to assist adults in assigning farm jobs to youth 7 to 16 who live or work on farms. The guideline, “Farmwork with an ATV,” is available at www.nagcat.org/poster/GenActy/ATV.htm.

- The Farm Safety Series provides a summary of ATV farm hazards and steps to reduce ATV-related injury risk. The resource is available through WorkSafe Victoria, Australia, [www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/publica.nsf/InterPubDocsA/AB748B16D114AB71CA256CFB00076682/\\$File/Farm_ATVs.pdf](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/publica.nsf/InterPubDocsA/AB748B16D114AB71CA256CFB00076682/$File/Farm_ATVs.pdf).

Where are training resources and opportunities available?

- To enroll in a Rider Course in your area contact ATV Enrollment Express at 1-800-887-2887 or go online at <http://home.att.net/~atvsafety/>. To contact an ATV Safety Institute representative for instructor licensing information call (949) 727-3727.
- The 4-H Community ATV Safety Program provides materials to learn to ride safely, www.atv-youth.org.

Where can I obtain injury data?

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER website contains state off-road vehicle-related (all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and hovercraft) mortality data using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, tenth revision (ICD 10) codes (V86.0-V86.9), <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortICD10J.html>.
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) provides estimates of emergency department visits, www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/neiss.html. Codes for ATV-related injury data are 3285, 3286, 3287, and 3296.
- CDC's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS™) is an interactive database that provides customized reports of transportation and other injury-related data, not specific to ATVs, www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm.

Where can I receive assistance with injury and cost data?

- “In My Back Yard” is a web-based directory to locate state injury contacts and organizations, <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/>.
- CSN's Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center (EDARC) assists in obtaining cost data and youth ATV-related injury data, www.edarc.org/.

In collaboration with private and public organizations, state health departments could:

Obtain Data and Evaluate Programs

- Evaluate and expand the opportunity of ATV safety training programs.
- Collect and monitor ATV-related injury data including use of personal protective equipment, time of day, surface type, ATV make/model, environmental conditions, alcohol and other drug involvement, and injury severity.

Be Proactive

- Consider the promotion of legislation in your state based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) model ATV legislation, <http://www.aap.org/policy/m951.html>.
- Offer the facts on ATV-related injuries to local ATV clubs, media representatives and state organizations.
- Develop and promote safe ATV riding opportunities.

Work with Professionals

- Work with manufacturers to increase the safety of ATVs.
- Encourage interventions that are developmentally appropriate, community-based and on-going; and incorporate education, enforcement, and engineering strategies.
- Encourage health care providers to engage in anticipatory guidance about ATV safety.
- Establish and maintain a trauma system that is responsive to the off-road nature of the sport.

* The Children's Safety Network does not endorse specific resources, but offers these as examples.

📄 This document can be downloaded from the Internet, www.childrensafetynetwork.org.

ATV safety materials also available are: ATV Safety Promoting Organizations, ATV Safety Programs: Best Practices, and ATV Safety Fact Sheet.

For more information:

Children's Safety Network

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