



ATV SAFETY TIPS

STATISTICS + FACTS

- In 2017, there was an estimated 93,800 ATV-related emergency room-treated injuries in the U.S. Approximately 26% were youth under the age of 16.¹
- In the US between 1982 and 2017, there were over 15,000 ATV-related fatalities, with approximately 22% of those being under the age of 16.¹
- From 1982-2014 there were 238 reported ATV fatalities in Illinois.¹
- From 1990 to 2012, there were approximately 40.5 ATV injuries or fatalities annually in Illinois. At least 40% of these occurred to individuals aged 19 or younger.²
- In ATV incidents, wearing a helmet reduces the risk of fatal head injuries by 35%-45% and non-fatal head injuries by 60%.³

PREVENTION⁴

- The rider should be able to reach controls without stretching.
- The rider must be able to lean in any direction to control the ATV.
- The rider should be tall enough to stand on the pedals while straddling the seat and be able to move from front to back while remaining in control of the vehicle.
- The ATV should have the appropriate power. The ATV Safety Institute recommends the following engine sizes for each group:
 - Under 6 years of age – not recommended
 - 6 to 11 years of age – under 70cc
 - 12 to 15 years of age – 70-90cc
 - 16 years and older – over 90cc
- Every rider should wear protective equipment regardless of age or skill level. In order to reduce the risk of injury, riders should always wear the following:
 - Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved helmet
 - Plastic goggles that cover all sides of the eyes
 - Long-sleeve shirt and pants

ATV Safety Tips, Cont'd

- When starting the ATV, the “BONE-C” procedure should be followed at all times. This will prevent damage to the vehicle, and more importantly, protect the rider from possible injury.
 - (B) BRAKE / Set the parking brake
 - (O) ON / Ignition and fuel on
 - (N) NEUTRAL / ATV in neutral
 - (E) ENGINE / Stop switch in run/on start position
 - (C) CHOKE / On

ATV DOS⁵

- Do wear protection (helmet, goggles, long-sleeve shirt and pants, gloves, over-ankle boots).
- Do follow the local laws for ATV use. Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education at (217) 524 4126 or order the brochure, *ATV and Off Highway Motorcycle Regulations*.
- Do get permission if you plan to ride on private property.
- Do be responsible and careful.
- Do have fun!
- Know your terrain. Paved road can cause the soft tires to bounce uncontrollably.

ATV DON'TS⁵

- Don't ride alone; always have someone with you on a separate ATV. If there is an emergency, the person with you can send for help.
- Don't ride with more than one person on the ATV. ATVs are designed for one person. An additional rider makes it difficult for the driver to control the vehicle.

REFERENCES

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3. Age-Based Risk Factors for Pediatric ATV-Related Fatalities. 2014. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/134/6/1094.full.pdf>
4. ATV Safety Institute – Youth ATV Safety. <https://ag-safety.extension.org/youth-atv-safety/#:~:text=Teach%20youth%20the%20acronym%20BONE,to%20properly%20start%20an%20ATV%3A&text=N%20%E2%80%93%20Neutral%20%E2%80%93%20ATV%20should%20be,when%20starting%20a%20cold%20engine.>
5. UWHealth. Emergency Medicine: ATV Injuries and Prevention. <http://www.uwhealth.org/emergency-room/atv-injuries-and-prevention/12251>