

# ATV SAFETY TIPS

## FACTS

### Nationally

- In 2005, 30 percent of all All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-related emergency department visits were by youth under the age of 16.
- From 1982-2005, 2,178 youth under the age of 16 were killed while riding an ATV. People under the age of 16 account for 30 percent of all ATV-related deaths.
- Eighty-seven percent of children injured while driving an ATV were driving an adult-sized ATV.
- ATV riders under the age of 16 are four times more likely to sustain injuries that require an emergency room visit than people over the age of 16.

### Illinois (Between 1990 and 2005)

- Males accounted for 80 percent of the 502 ATV-related injuries and deaths.
- Each year, approximately 34 people were injured in the state of Illinois from ATVs.
- One hundred fifty-six people were killed in ATV accidents.
- Over 40 percent of those killed on ATVs were between the ages of nine and 19.

## PREVENTION

- The rider should be able to reach controls without stretching.
- The rider must be able to lean in all 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 age group:

6 years and older - under 70cc

12 years and older - 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:

1. Department of Transportation (DOT) approved helmet
  - Protects against serious head injuries
  - Should fit the rider snugly but not hinder vision or be uncomfortable
2. Plastic goggles that cover all sides of the eyes
  - Protects against flying debris
  - Should have a strap to prevent the goggles from slipping down or off the face

3. Long sleeve shirt and pants
  - Protects against cuts and scrapes
  - Protects against dangerous plants like poison ivy
4. Gloves
  - Protects hands from debris that can cause scrapes and cuts
  - Provides additional grip
5. Over-the-ankle boots
  - Protects against sprains
  - Provides additional grip on the foot pedals

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 DO'S

- 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 to order the brochure, *ATV and Off Highway Motorcycle Regulations*.
- Do get permission to ride on private property.
- Do be responsible and careful.
- Do have fun!

#### ATV DON'TS

- Don't ride alone; always have someone with you. 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.
- Don't ride on paved roads. This can cause the soft wheels of the ATV to bounce uncontrollably.

#### RESOURCES

2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries. United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. March 8, 2007. [www.cpsc.gov/library/atv2005.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/library/atv2005.pdf)

All-Terrain Vehicle-Related Nonfatal Injuries Among Young Riders: United States, 2001-2003. Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Vol. 116, No. 5. 2005. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/116/5/e608>

<http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/Resources/ATV/FactSheet.htm>

[www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/farmmgt/o5004.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/farmmgt/o5004.html)