



# A *ll-terrain Vehicle Safety*

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are motorized vehicles with large, low-pressure tires. ATVs are designed to carry one rider on uneven surfaces. ATVs can be used for work and recreation. ATVs weigh up to 600 pounds and can reach speeds of 75 mph. This size and speed require safety precautions when youth operate ATVs.

Children's  
Safety  
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# All-terrain Vehicle Safety



## What are the injury facts for youth on ATVs?

Youth under 16 years operating an ATV are four times more likely to experience an injury requiring an emergency department visit.

Injuries commonly occur in rollover crashes, collisions with stationary objects and falling off the ATV.

The majority of fatalities are injuries to the head and neck.

Non-fatal injuries commonly include fractured bones and head injuries.

## What factors are key to safe ATV use?

- Personal protective helmet and clothing
- ATV appropriate to the size of operator
- Single operator and no passengers
- Supervision based on developmental skill
- Parental knowledge and approval
- Ability/skills to operate ATV

## What developmental factors must youth possess to operate an ATV?

- The physical size, strength, coordination, and physical motor skills to operate an ATV
- The cognitive capacity to anticipate, recognize and react to potential hazards
- Good judgment to act responsibly, minimize risks, and react to potential hazards

## What strategies help promote safe ATV operation?

- Follow manufacturers recommendations matching operator age with ATV size
- Operate the ATV on only trails and at an appropriate speed
- Supervision should be based upon developmental and skill level
- Personal equipment that includes: DOT-approved helmet with face protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants, non-skid boots, gloves
- Be aware of other ATVs and motor vehicle traffic while crossing roadways

## What role do child safety advocates play in addressing youth ATV safety?

- Be responsible operators and a good role model
- Promote safe use based on current practices and risk of injury
- Evaluate effectiveness of prevention practices
- Monitor childhood injury reports/data
- Inform parents about ATV safety and supervision
- Promote safety education for operating ATVs
- Advocate for safe youth ATV practice and policy

## Where can I go to learn more about youth ATV safety?

Additional information and links on youth ATV safety can be found at [www.childrensafetynetwork.org](http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org). Available information includes resources, organizations, frequently asked questions, and a fact sheet. State health departments can receive technical assistance on youth ATV-related injury prevention from the Children's Safety Network (CSN) at the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) at 1-800-662-6900.

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) strives to enhance the health and safety of all children involved in agricultural work and living in rural settings. The center is a program of the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.



National Children's Center  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

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