



ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) SAFETY

HIGH PLAINS INTERMOUNTAIN CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

AgriAction Information Sheet (IS-99-06)



The use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) continues to increase on many farms and ranches. Along with their growing popularity has been a reported increase in numbers of serious ATV related injuries and deaths. Below are just some of the fatal injuries that farmers and ranchers in Colorado have suffered in recent years:

A 17-year-old was using a 3 wheel ATV to travel on county roads between hay fields when he suffered a head on collision with a motor cycle. The boy, who was not wearing a helmet, died on the scene of head injuries.



A 37-year-old rancher used a 4 wheel ATV to check fence lines on his ranch. When he failed to return home, family members found him under the overturned vehicle. The cause of death was a fractured skull.

Crushing chest injuries killed a 48-year-old Colorado farm worker in August of 1995. His ATV slid and rolled over on him as he was driving across a wet, grassy hill. He died of crushing injuries to the chest.

Nationwide, since 1982, over 2,900 people have died in ATV accidents like these. Many more have suffered serious injuries. Forty percent of the victims were children under 16 years of age and 20% of the victims were twelve or younger. Although the number of deaths and injuries from the 3-wheel ATVs has decreased since 1987 when manufacturers discontinued producing them, the numbers of deaths and injuries from 4 wheel ATVs continues to increase steadily. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates over 28,000 persons are injured each year while riding 4-wheel ATVs.

What can you do to prevent serious ATV injuries? Remember that an ATV handles differently from other vehicles. Get the proper training before driving an ATV and ALWAYS follow the operating procedures described in your owner's manual. Contact the ATV Safety Institute for Rider Safety Courses 1-800-887-2887.

(Continued on the next page)



ATV Safety Recommendations

- Wear appropriate riding gear including ANSI, Snell, or DOT approved helmet, eye protection, gloves, over-the ankle boots, long-sleeved shirt and long pants when operating an ATV.
- Never operate an ATV on pavement. They are not designed for paved surfaces and may be difficult to control.
- Do not use an ATV on any public road, even dirt or gravel roads, as collision with cars, trucks and other motorized vehicles is a very real hazard.
- Never operate an ATV at excessive speeds. Ensure speed is right for terrain, visibility conditions and your experience.
- An ATV is not a toy. Children should not be permitted to operate ATVs without specialized training. After training they should only be allowed to operate the appropriate smaller sized ATV.

The National Safety Council Recommends

- Children under 12 years of old should not operate an ATV
- Children age 12-16 years, ATVs of model size engine of 70-90 cc
- Age 16 and up ATVs with a model size engine greater than 90 cc
- Never carry a passenger on an ATV. They are not safe for extra riders.
- Attachments can affect the stability, operation, and braking of an ATV. Be aware that attachments may increase your risk of being injured.
- Never operate an ATV while under the influence of alcohol.



Sources:

FACE FACTS, Nebraska Department of Labor and the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) summer, 1997.

Colorado Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation, Colorado Department of Health Agricultural fatality data.

National Safety Council, Farm Safety and Health Promotion materials, 1997.

Consumer Product Safety Commission 1-800-638-2772.

ATVs Distributors' Safety Hotline 1-800-852-5344.

For Further Information Contact:

HI-CAHS

Department of Environmental Health
133 Environmental Health Building
Colorado State University

Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1681

(800) 622-8673

(970) 491-6152

FAX: (970) 491-7778

<http://www.bernardino.colostate.edu/hicahs/>