

THE PROBLEM: INJURIES & FATALITIES

Nationally, there were 107,500 ATV injuries in 2011. There were 327 ATV-related deaths reported and 29,000 emergency room visits.

In Kentucky, there were 16 ATV related deaths and 174 reported injuries (2014).

THE ANSWER: GET TRAINING

The ATV Safety Institute is a non-profit organization that offers ATV training.

The training is free with any purchase of a new ATV. Otherwise there is a nominal fee.

Training courses are provided by the ATV Safety Institute and are offered regionally. For more information about a training course near you, contact them at 1-800-887-2887.

KENTUCKY ATV LAW

An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) cannot be operated on any public highway, roadway or the right-of-way of any public highway or roadway. (KRS 189.515)

An ATV is allowed to cross a 2 lane public highway doing so at as close to a 90 degree angle as practical and safe but not traveling on the highway more than 2/10's of a mile.

An ATV can only be operated on a 2 lane public highway if the operator is engaged in farm or agriculture related activities, construction, road maintenance, or snow removal. These operators must possess a valid operator's license and comply with all applicable traffic regulations.

Approved protective headgear must be worn by the operator at all times that the ATV is used on any public property. This headgear requirement is only exempted when the operator is engaged in farm, mining, logging, or other commercial operations or use of the vehicle on private property.

An ATV should not be operated on private property without the consent of the landowner, tenant, or individual responsible for the property.

A person under the age of sixteen (16) years must not operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine size exceeding 90 cubic centimeters displacement, and cannot operate an all-terrain vehicle unless under direct parental supervision.

A person under the age of twelve (12) years cannot operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine size exceeding 70 cubic centimeters displacement.

ATV Safety Guide



GEAR UP BEFORE YOU REV UP

**Kentucky State Police
919 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
502.782.1800**



ATV SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Knowing all you can about your ATV and where you intend to ride is the best method for safe riding. Too many ATV riders die or experience life altering injuries from ATV crashes.

ATV's are intended for off-road use only. Never operate an ATV on public roads, and always avoid paved surfaces. Riding on paved roads seriously affects handling and control.

'Gear Up' before you 'Rev Up.' This includes an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket.

ATV's with an engine size above 70cc shall not be operated by persons under 12 years of age. You must be 16 years old to operate an ATV above 90 cc's.

Don't let young or inexperienced riders operate ATV's without training and supervision. You would not let someone drive a car without first having training, treat an ATV with the same respect.

Do not operate an ATV while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



YOUR ATV: PROPER FIT

To determine if your ATV is the right size for you, measure the clearance between the seat and your inseam while standing up on the foot peg. You should have 3 to 6 inches of space between the seat and your inseam. Proper clearance will help you correctly stand up and absorb shocks through your legs on rough terrain.

The upper part of your leg from top of the knee to the hip should be nearly horizontal to help you control the ATV. However, if your knees are well above your hips turn the handlebars in both directions to check for contact with your knees or legs with the handle bars.

RIDING TECHNIQUES

ATV's are rider-active; to enhance the performance capabilities of the ATV, you must shift your body weight. This is especially true in maneuvers such as turning, negotiating hills, and crossing obstacles.

The basic turning technique for an ATV traveling at low to moderate speed is to move your body weight forward and to the inside of the turn. Turn the handlebars while looking in the direction of the turn.

As you increase speed or turn more sharply, move your body weight farther toward the inside of the turn to maintain your balance.

If your ATV starts to tip while turning, lean your body farther into the turn while gradually reducing the throttle and making the turn wider, if possible.

Climbing hills improperly could cause loss of control or cause the ATV to overturn. Always remember that some hills are too steep for your ATV regardless of your abilities.

Never ride past the limit of your visibility; if you can not see what is on or over the crest of a hill, slow down until you have clear view.

The key to being a good hill rider is to keep your weight uphill at all times.

When approaching the uphill climb keep your feet firmly on the footrests. Shift the ATV into a lower gear and speed up before climbing the hill so you can maintain momentum.

Move up on the seat and lean forward, or stand and position your torso over the front wheels. As you climb, you may need to shift to a lower gear to avoid lugging the engine or stalling.

If you are riding uphill and lose forward momentum, do not attempt to ride backward down a hill. Should you begin rolling backward, do not apply the rear brake abruptly. Doing so could cause the ATV to roll over backward. Keep your weight uphill and apply the front brake.

Always check the terrain carefully before you start down any hill.

GEAR UP BEFORE YOU REV UP

**For More information about a training course near you,
contact the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887**