



RAPID RESPONSE

ATV Safety In The News

**A Project of
the U.S. Consumer
Product Safety Commission**

Quick Facts For a Safer Ride

Just this week there was a death or serious injury in your community involving an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). As you continue to report about this tragedy, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) encourages you to use this teachable moment to share critical safety information with your audience.

More than 800 Americans die each year in ATV-related incidents and more than 145,000 are injured. Many ATV-related deaths and injuries are preventable, and by providing safety information to riders in the aftermath of this incident, we can work together to help drive down the number of incidents in your community.

By incorporating safety tips into your story now, such as those to the right, you could help save a life.

Important Facts:

- ATVs are not toys! They are powerful and potentially dangerous vehicles.
- Adult ATVs can travel at more than 60 miles per hour and weigh up to 850 pounds; youth ATVs are made to travel at lower speeds that are more appropriate for children's ages and skills.
- ATVs can easily tip over and roll. The unpredictable nature of off-road conditions makes training and proper use essential.

For more information about ATV safety, local laws, national and state data, please visit

www.ATVSafety.gov.

To speak with a CPSC spokesperson, please call (301) 504-7800.

Experience Counts – Take a Hands-On Safety Training Course

Learning to drive an ATV can be challenging. Many deaths and injuries occur when an inexperienced or untrained driver loses control of an ATV, is thrown from an ATV, overturns the vehicle, or collides with a fixed object or a motor vehicle. Good ATV training teaches drivers how to handle multiple off-road riding situations.

Experienced ATV drivers (with more than one year of experience) have a much lower risk of injury than relatively new drivers. Training can help bridge that gap. Yet, less than 10% of all ATV drivers and only about one-quarter of new drivers receive professional training!

All ATV drivers, including children under 16, should take a hands-on ATV safety course from a certified instructor. These courses are offered by the ATV Safety Institute, local ATV rider groups, and some state agencies. The National 4-H Council also sponsors educational seminars on safe riding for children and teenagers.

Many manufacturers offer free training as well as cash awards and incentives to buyers who complete the ATV Safety Institute training course. Children under 16 can take the course only if they are on an age-appropriate ATV. Children younger than 12 who take the course must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian for the training.

