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Monthly Safety Blast

Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety at Work

According to the CDC, ATVs were first introduced in the U.S. for agricultural use in the early 1980s. Over the past thirty years, ATVs have grown increasingly popular recreationally and have become a valuable asset in various work settings. With more than 10 million in use, it is important to know the hazards associated with ATVs and how to operate them safely.

Recommended Practices for the Safe Use of ATVs at Work

For Employers:

- Provide helmet and eye protection for workers and encourage the use of other personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Identify and mark hazards such as excavations, trenches, and guy wires that might be present in specific work environments, so they are easily seen and avoided by workers on the job site.
- Establish operating and maintenance policies that follow manufacturer's terrain guidelines, specified hauling and towing capacity, and passenger restrictions.
- Provide employees access to hands-on training by an ATV Safety Institute instructor or a similarly qualified instructor.
- Share responsibility with employees on the practices detailed below.

For Employees:

- Wear PPE including a helmet, eye-protection, long pants, and sturdy boots.
- Participate in hands-on training in the safe handling and operation of an ATV.
- Conduct a pre-ride inspection of tires, brakes, headlights, etc., and follow



employer's maintenance policies for upkeep of the ATV.

- Understand how implements and attachments may affect the stability and handling of the ATV.
- Never exceed the manufacturer's specified hauling and towing capacity or weight limits and ensure cargo is balanced, secured, and loaded on provided racks.
- Be aware of potential hazards such as trees, ruts, rocks, streams and gullies, and follow posted hazard warnings.
- Drive at speeds safe for weather and terrain and never operate ATVs on surfaces not designed for ATVs such as paved roads and highways.
- Never permit passengers on the ATV, unless the ATV has an additional seat specifically designed to carry them.
- Never operate an ATV while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not allow children to ride or drive an ATV designed for adult operators.

A Community Coalition from Northeast Texas, ATeamV, produced a video to demonstrate the risks associated with improper use of an ATV. The Last Ride video is available at www.pehsuclassroom.net. This a **FREE** training that can be used in the classroom, work setting or for personal use.

To access it, you must first register with the site. Users are instructed on how to use the learning module, how it relates to Texas laws and that there is a requirement to fill out a pre- and post-test evaluation.



Take the [All-terrain Vehicle \(ATV\) Safety at Work quiz](#) to test your knowledge!

Resources:

- Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America: <http://www.ashca.com>
- ATV Safety Institute:
http://www.atvsafety.org/InfoSheets/ATV_Riding_Tips.pdf;
<https://online.svia.org/training/default.aspx>
- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids: <http://www.fs4jk.org>
- National Children's Center for Rural Agricultural Health and Safety:
<http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs>
- National Education Center for Agricultural Safety: <http://www.necasag.org>
- Center for Disease and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>
- http://www.pehsuclassroom.net/lms/index.php?r=player&course_id=49#training

Disclaimer: The facts and information listed above are merely suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhausted list of all actions needed to insure your safety.

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