

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 19-25th

This year's theme is "ATV's: Work Smart - Ride Smart". The poster for this campaign was developed by the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) and is available online at http://www.childagsafety.org/files/Poster_FINAL.pdf. We encourage you to print and post the safety reminder for the ATV owners in your area.

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission 2008 Annual Report for ATV- Related Deaths and Injuries:

- Over 135,000 people were injured, 28% under the age of 16; and
- 410 people were killed, 18% under the age of 16.

These data likely reflect occupational and recreational users as most ATVs are used for a combination of work and play. Furthermore, it is difficult to collect information that identifies the driver's motivation for operation at the time of an ATV incident.

Regardless of the reason for operating an ATV, the same safety rules apply. This year's safety campaign targets parents of adolescent ATV operators. CASN wants parents to know that:

- ATVs roll over easily,
- ATVs are not meant for passengers, and
- ATVs can weigh up to 800 pounds.

Uneven terrain or unforeseen obstacles can easily cause an ATV to roll over. In addition, passengers can alter the weight distribution on an ATV and make them even more likely to become unstable and roll over. In the event of a roll over, it would be practically impossible for the operator to lift an 800 pound machine off of their body. Remember: ATV riding is not child's play!

For more information, check out the AgriSafe webinar on The ATV Injury Epidemic. John Hafner, MD, Emergency Physician at OSF St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Peoria, IL will present this timely topic on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 12:00 pm CDT. To join the session, click: <http://uiowa.na5.acrobat.com/hafner/>.

Enter your name in the guest login box and click on 'Enter Room'

Resources:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia10/os/atv2008.pdf>

<http://www.childagsafety.org/>

<http://www.atvsafety.org/>

<http://www.atvsafety.gov/>

<http://www.litzwire.net/main/> ATV safety video: Click on projects and scroll through them until you see "A Trip Unplanned"

