

Safety tips for all ATV riders

- Do not carry passengers; ATVs are designed for one person.
- ATVs are sold in a variety of engine sizes. For children over 16 years of age and small adult drivers, choose an ATV engine size appropriate to your ability to operate it. While some people claim kids are safer when they ride so-called “child sized” models, there is actually no evidence to support this claim.
- Wear a helmet with eye protection, long pants & long sleeves.
- Crushing injuries are common in ATV crashes. Wear a chest protector to provide added protection against this type of injury.
- Wear non-skid, closed toe shoes.
- Travel at speeds conducive to conditions and operator ability.
- Use flags, reflectors & lights to make the vehicle more visible.
- Do not ride at night.
- Follow the manufacturer's safety recommendations.
- Attend an ATV driver's safety course.
- Inspect your ATV before you begin. Look at the tires, wheels, controls, cables, oil, fuel, chain, chassis, lights, electronics and the air filter.
- Carry equipment to handle mechanical & medical emergencies.
- Never use a 3-wheeler; they are unsafe and no longer manufactured.
- Don't ride alone! Use the “buddy system.”
- Safe Kids recommends that children under the age of 16 should never ride or operate ATVs of any size, including youth-sized ATVs.



For more information contact **Safe Kids Grand Forks**

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GRAND FORKS

Preventing injuries:
at home,
at school,
at play,
and on the way.

ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) Safety

We Believe

Every kid has the
right to grow up
safe, healthy and
free from injury.

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What is an ATV?

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are motorized vehicles with three or four wheels and large, low pressure tires. They are designed to be used by a single operator in off-road areas, not on public roads. Three-wheelers are unsafe and no longer manufactured but still may be in use. They are dangerous due to their high tendency to tip over backwards. Recently, the use of ATVs has become more popular as they have shifted from a traditional farm-work vehicle to one of a recreational vehicle.

Did You Know?

- Each year, over 40,000 children under age 16 are seriously injured or killed on ATVs.
- Over the past 10 years, the number of children killed in off-road vehicle accidents increased by 88%.
- Children under the age of 16 riding ATVs are four times more likely than ATV operators over 16 to experience an injury requiring emergency room treatment.

An ATV is NOT a Toy

An All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is a powerful motorized vehicle. It can weigh up to 800 pounds and reach speeds of more than 75 mph. Even the best drivers often lose control of their ATV. ATVs are dangerous because they have no crash protection mechanism such as roll-over bars or seat belts. When they tip (and they frequently do) the driver is thrown off, and the ATV follows in the same direction. The person can be crushed, injured or killed.

A collision or a vehicle rollover can happen quickly. Before allowing any young person on an ATV, think twice...because you only live once!

Causes of Injury/Death

ATV-related injuries commonly occur due to rollovers, collisions with stationary objects and falls from the vehicles.

ATVs weigh between 350-800 pounds, enough force to crush the chest of a child. Head injuries, as well as crushing injuries, are common causes of death.

What can happen?

The most common injuries associated with ATV crashes are to the head, face and spine-skull fractures, facial fractures, brain injuries, coma, paralysis and spinal cord injuries. Some riders involved in crashes have short-term disability; some have a lifetime of disability, and others die.



Who is at risk?

The highest risk age group is males under the age of 16.

Why are young people injured so often?

- No helmet or chest protector use
- Carrying one or more passengers
- Lack of mature judgment
- Lack of adequate strength and coordination to keep the machine in an upright position
- ATV too big for their size/age

What do doctors think about ATVs?

Along with Safe Kids Worldwide, the American Academy of Pediatrics and The American College of Surgeons recommend that children under 16 years of age not ride ATVs due to the high risk of serious injury. Children of this age do not have adequate cognitive abilities to make quick decisions or the upper body strength to bring the ATV to an upright position should they begin to tip.

