

ATV Safety

Introduction

Give background information & describe KFB involvement

1. Short Quiz from 4-H ATV book
2. What does ATV stand for?

All Terrain Vehicle

3. What is an ATV?

ATV's are 3 or 4 wheel off road vehicles that have low-pressure tires, a seat that is straddled by the rider and are powered by gasoline engines

4. How many of you have an ATV at home?
5. How many of you have ever ridden an ATV?
6. What is the most important piece of protective gear?

Helmet

7. Does anyone know someone injured while riding an ATV?

Read the following story about an ATV accident.

Driver in ATV accident charged with homicide; community mourns deaths of young riders

AMBROSE, Ga. — A woman whose car rammed into an all-terrain vehicle laden with children was charged with vehicular homicide and drunk driving as the community grieved for the five youngsters who died.

At the local middle school, the American flag flew at half-staff Tuesday and grief counselors talked to children all day. Mourners painted crosses and planted them on the side of the rural road where the accident took place Saturday night.

Authorities say Amanda Michelle Troupe, 29, crossed the center line about 9 p.m. Saturday before hitting the four-wheeler, designed to carry one person.

Troupe was also charged with reckless driving and driving on the wrong side of the road.

Jerome Francis worked with his father to plant five crosses side by side on Smith Cemetery Road.

"This just didn't make any sense," he said. "I had to do something, so I decided to make some crosses."

Coranne Nelson, celebrating her 14th birthday, had been taking her five friends for a ride on the family ATV when the accident occurred.

Killed, along with Nelson, were: Dustin Varnedore, 11, and his 13-year-old sister, Kayla; Lindsay Joiner, 13; and Courtney Arsenault, 10.

Heather Bass, 13, was in critical condition Tuesday.

Troupe and her two passengers were not seriously injured. She was being held in the county jail. None of the children was wearing a helmet.

After reading story, ask who was at fault.

The answers you are looking for are: the drunk driver for mixing alcohol and motor vehicles, the girls parents for not supervising the kids. The kids were also responsible for breaking many ATV safety rules. They were on a road, they had too many people on the ATV, and they were not wearing protective equipment.

Personal Protective Equipment

“The nature of ATV riding demands that you wear protective clothing. Although complete protection is not possible, knowing what to wear and how to wear it can make you more comfortable when you ride and reduce the chance of injury in case of a spill.”

1. Helmet

- The helmet is the most important piece of protective gear. Not wearing a helmet increases your chances of a severe head injury or death if involved in an accident.
- Helmets protect the head by absorbing the shock of a collision and protecting the head from cuts and fractures.
- Look for stickers from DOT, ANSI or SNELL when purchasing a helmet to show that it has met requirements for strength, construction and crashworthiness.
- Athletic gear such as bicycle, hockey, football, or skateboard helmets have not met these strict standards.
- The full-face helmet provides the most protection since it covers more of your face. The 3/4 helmet doesn't offer face and chin protection and should be used with a shield or goggles.
- For a helmet to offer the most protection possible, it should fit snugly but comfortably. It should be securely fastened with a chinstrap so it won't come off during an accident.
- Replace the helmet when it is involved in any accident even if it doesn't look damaged, if it is dropped or damaged in any way, or if the chin strap frays or loosens at its attaching point or when it doesn't fit anymore.

2. Face Shield/Goggles

- You must be able to see clearly to ride safely. An object such as a rock, branch or even a bug that hits you in the face can distract you, causing an accident; if you are hit in the eye, you could be blinded.
- Goggles protect against eye injury from rocks, branches, water, and insects while riding an ATV.
- They should be securely fastened and free from scratches.
- Sunglasses are not an acceptable choice to protect the eyes from injuries or accidents.

3. Hand Protection

- Protect hands from scrapes and scratches from branches and in the case of a spill.
- Off-road style gloves are padded over the knuckles for added protection.
- Gloves should help improve your grip on the controls, and help prevent hands from getting sore, tired or cold while riding.

4. Boots

- The most protective footwear is a pair of over-the-calf boots with low heels to help prevent your feet from slipping off the footrests. These help protect the feet, ankles, and legs from branches and in case of a spill.
- At the minimum, you should wear over-the-ankle boots with a low heel.

5. Clothing

- Off-road gear, such as a jersey and shoulder pads/chest protector and off-road pants with knee and shin protection provide the best protection against scratches from brush and branches as well as scrapes and bruises if you land on the ground, shrubs, gravel, etc.
- A long sleeved shirt and long pants (not sweats) are minimal requirements for rider protection.

ATV Safety Video

“This video is about a boy who receives an ATV for his 12th birthday. The “voice of precaution” helps him realize he needs more than just keys before he can ride his new ATV. It addresses parental supervision, ATV rider course, protective gear, knowing your machine, inspection of ATV, Riding an ATV, Safe Rider’s Pledge and ATV Parent’s Promise.”

ATV Safety Rules

Have 10 people come up and pick a poster and tell why it’s important.

These are posters from the ATV 4-H safety manual.

Conclusion

“ATV can be a safe and fun experience but only if you always follow the rules that we have talked about today.”

Hand out the Rider’s Pledge and have them sign it along with the parent’s signature.

Have them pick up any other material they would like.