

BEYOND THE BASICS

Provided by: Abel Insurance Agency

Did You Know?

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) can be a great source of fun for adventure seekers. These four-wheeled machines are designed for riding on uneven surfaces on off-road paths, and are useful for carrying loads and supplies. Though they are fun to ride and make carrying loads easier, ATVs are also dangerous.

ATVs AND PERSONAL SAFETY

To remain safe while operating an ATV, don't forget these safety tips:

- Attend ATV instruction courses to learn more about operating your vehicle.
- Read the owner's manual carefully before attempting to ride, and ensure that all riders understand how to remain safe.
- Never allow others to ride on an ATV with you.
- Do not carry attachments or loads unless you are properly trained to do so.
- Never operate an ATV while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Wear a helmet that is designed specifically for riding an ATV. Be sure to wear eye protection, gloves, boots and long-sleeved shirts to protect yourself as well.
- Scan ahead to identify hazards such as rocks, fallen branches, fences, wires and unstable surfaces.
- Be on guard for unexpected hazards, such as wildlife and other riders.
- Drive at a moderate speed, and take weather conditions and the terrain into account.
- Shift your weight when making turns and riding up and down hills.

Safety First

Because injuries sustained on ATVs can be severe, it is critical that you and your family abide by the manufacturer's recommendations regarding who is eligible to ride. Generally, no one under age 16 should ride an ATV with an engine larger than 90CC. Children under age 12 should ride ATVs with engine sizes between 70 and 90CC, and children under age 6 should ride ATVs with engines 70CCs or smaller.

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