



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER

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Resource Document

Autumn ATV safety

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Narrative:

Millions of All Terrain Vehicles are in use in America and their popularity grows each year.

Five Soldiers died while riding ATVs to date (August) in fiscal 2013--three occurred off duty and two occurred on duty.

According to civilian data available at ATVSafety.gov, 327 civilian riders died in ATV related accidents in 2011, and more than 107,000 civilians were treated for ATV-related injuries in hospital emergency rooms.

Key Messages:

- All Soldiers are required to wear PPE when operating motorcycles and ATVs.
- Motorcyclists are required to take approved safety training; ATV operators are encouraged by the Army to take approved training.
- Some states require certified training in order for ATV operators to receive an endorsement on their driver's license.
- Speeding risks in an ATV are increased because terrain features may be difficult to identify and avoid. Loose or sandy soil or mud increases the distance needed to stop an ATV while decreasing traction in turns.

Talking points:

- Indiscipline such as speeding and alcohol use pose additional danger of accidents.
- Never allow a child to operate an adult-sized ATV. Never carry a passenger on an ATV not designed for a second person.
- Investigate sources in your locale that provide safety training for ATV operators; both new and experienced ATV riders should take refresher safety training on a regular basis.
- Training may be available at ATV dealers. Other approved training courses are available, visit Specialty Vehicle Institute of America at <http://www.svia.org>
- Monitor riding activities where possible and be prepared to approach an ATV driver who is showing indiscipline that could harm them or others.
- ATV riders must understand that regulations for on-base use of ATVs vary from Army post to post.
- Riders and safety professionals should refer to AR-385-10, the Army Safety Program, for information on the safe operation of ATVs.
- Required PPE for ATV riders is different from that required for motorcycle riders.

Topics/tools:

Advice from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission:

- Like other activities, riding an ATV can be risky. To help stay safe, follow common sense safety tips.
- Take a hands-on safety training course. Formal training teaches drivers how to control ATVs in typical situations. Drivers with formal, hands-on ATV training have a lower injury risk than drivers with no formal training.
- Always wear protective gear – especially a helmet – when riding ATVs. Many ATV injuries are head injuries. Wearing a helmet may reduce the severity of these injuries.
- Select a motorcycle or other motorized sports helmet and make sure the helmet is certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation and/or the Snell Memorial Foundation.
- In addition, wear over-the-ankle boots, goggles, gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt to protect against cuts, abrasions, and other injuries from rocks, trees, and other debris.
- Do not drive ATVs on paved roads. ATVs – because of how they're made – are difficult to control on paved roads. Collisions with cars and other vehicles also can be deadly. Many fatalities involving ATVs occur on paved roads.

- Do not permit children to drive or ride adult ATVs. Children are involved in about one-third of all ATV-related deaths and hospital emergency room injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries occur when a child is driving or riding on an adult ATV.
- Do not drive ATVs while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol and drugs impair reaction time and judgment, two essential skills for safe ATV use.

References:

[www. ATVSafety.gov](http://www.ATVSafety.gov)

<http://www.svia.org>

<https://safety.army.mil>

Statistics:

More than 107,000 civilians were treated at hospital emergency rooms in 2011 for injuries received while operating ATVs.

Five Soldiers died in ATV accidents as of August in fiscal 2013--three occurred off duty and two occurred on duty.