

Montana Ag Safety Program



Four-wheelers Safety: ATVs and UTVs

The following are general safety guidelines. These guidelines should not be substituted for specific rules provided to you by your All-Terrain Vehicle manufacturer. For more information visit: www.atvsafety.org

ATV Specific Considerations

- Ensure your machine is the correct size.
 - Sit square on the seat. Extend your arms and place your hands on the handlebars. Can you comfortably reach the throttle and brake while keeping your hands positioned on the handlebars? Do you have a slight bend in your elbow? Can you turn the handlebars completely in both directions without moving your hands or repositioning your body on the seat?
 - While sitting on the seat, does the top of your leg sit parallel to the ground?
 - If you can answer “Yes” to all these questions; your machine is likely appropriately sized. Remember, the overall weight of the machine will affect your ability to maneuver it safely; if the machine feels too heavy for you to comfortably operate, consider a smaller machine.
- Never carry a passenger unless the ATV is designed to do so.
- Use proper riding technique; shift your body weight as appropriate.

General considerations

- Wear PPE.
 - Helmet: ANSI, DOT, or Snell certified, eye protection (built in face shield if equipped in helmet or safety goggles), long pants and long-sleeved shirt, gloves, sturdy boots (above the ankle).
- Read the owner’s manual and follow all manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Conduct a pre-ride inspection.
- While riding, use all your senses – if something looks, sounds, feels, or smells wrong; take time to investigate the cause and resolve it as soon as possible.
- ATV and UTV tires are designed to work at low pressure – DO NOT overfill.
- Be aware of all potential hazards. Walk through areas you are unfamiliar with before riding.
- Never operate speeds too great for the conditions or operator capability.
- ATVs and UTVs are designed for off-road use. Use extreme caution on public roadways.
- Crossing ditches should be done at a right angle to the ditch to prevent roll-overs.
- Avoid excessive speed and aggressive maneuvering.
- Ensure weight is equally distributed. Overloading the machine will dramatically affect your ability to safely operate even at slow speeds.
- Use all restraint systems when equipped – doors, seatbelts, etc.
- Shut down the machine completely before inspecting or repairing.
- Many ATV and UTV components become exceptionally hot during operation. Take care to avoid burns.
- Avoid being the cause of a wildfire.
 - Use an approved spark arrestor and stay out of exceptionally dry/tall vegetation.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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