



# RAPID RESPONSE

## ATV Safety In The News

A Project of  
the U.S. Consumer  
Product Safety Commission

# Quick Facts For a Safer Ride

Just this week there was a death or serious injury in your community involving an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). As you continue to report about this tragedy, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) encourages you to use this teachable moment to share critical safety information with your audience.

Each year since 2004, nearly 800 Americans have died in ATV-related incidents. Another 140,000 are injured on average each year. Many ATV-related deaths and injuries are preventable, and by providing safety information to riders in the aftermath of this incident, we can work to drive down the number of incidents in your community.

By incorporating safety tips into your story now, such as those to the right, your reporting could help save a life.

### Important Facts:

- ATVs are not toys! They are powerful and potentially dangerous vehicles.
- Adult ATVs can travel at more than 60 miles per hour and can weigh nearly a half ton; youth ATVs are made to travel at lower speeds that are more appropriate for children's ages and skills.
- ATVs can easily tip over and roll. The unpredictable nature of off-road conditions makes training and proper use essential.

For more information about ATV safety, state legislation, and national and state data, please visit [www.ATVSafety.gov](http://www.ATVSafety.gov). To speak with a CPSC spokesperson, please call (301) 504-7800.

### Do Not Permit Children To Drive Or Ride Adult ATVs

Children younger than 16 years old lack the developmental skills to safely drive adult ATVs. More than 90 percent of all injuries involving children are related to this fact.

CPSC's mandatory product safety standard for ATVs requires youth ATVs to be made with a maximum speed lower than that on adult ATVs, and with a speed limiter, which allows the speed of the ATV to be set less than its maximum speed by a parent or guardian.

Children younger than 6 should never be on an ATV – either as a driver or passenger. Young children lack the physical ability and mental skills to safely maneuver a motorized vehicle with multiple speeds and controls.

Even many older, more experienced adolescents cannot make quick, accurate judgments while driving and should not be on adult ATVs.

All ATVs should be equipped with a label that indicates the manufacturer's recommended age for that particular model.

