



All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Information





ATV Safety Tips

- Wear all recommended protective equipment when riding.
- Know the limits of what you can and cannot do.
- Know the area where you will be riding.
- Don't exceed experience and training limits.
- Before you ride, do the routine maintenance on the vehicle (tires, brakes, lights, cables, fuel lines, seat and handlebars properly adjusted).



Suggested ATV Best Practices

- An ATV is not a toy. Only children having had specialized training should be allowed to operate an ATV.
- ATVs with an engine size of 70cc to 90cc should be operated by people at least 12 years of age.
- ATVs with an engine size greater than 90cc should be operated only by those 16 years of age.



ATV Best Practices (continued)

- Read the owners manual carefully.
- ATVs are not made for multiple riders. Never carry anyone else on the ATV.
- Any added attachments affect the stability, operating and braking of the ATV.
- Just because an attachment is available doesn't mean that it can be used without increasing your risk of being injured.
- Do not operate an ATV on streets, highways or paved roads.

Common ATV-related injuries:



- Head injuries
- Spinal trauma
- Abdominal trauma
- Abrasions and lacerations
- Clavicle/extremity fractures and dislocations



ATV Deaths

Deaths occur in:

Collisions (56% of deaths)

- more than half with fixed object

Overturns (35% of deaths)

- backward more common than forward

60% occur on roadways

Only 1% on ATV trails



Safety Tips

- **WEAR SAFETY GEAR** - Wear a helmet, eye protection and other protective clothing suitable to the environment at all times.
- **NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS** - Operating an ATV while drinking or using drugs is not only unsafe, it is illegal.
- **OBEY THE LAW** - Learn the ATV laws in your state and those in the areas you will be riding.
- **OBEY THE RULES** - Obey posted signs and stay on the trails. Further, Venturing from marked trails can result in a rider coming face to face with unexpected obstacles such as ditches, drop offs, cliffs, trees, etc.
- **WATCH YOUR SPEED** - Always ride at a safe and responsible speed. Know your abilities and don't exceed those levels.
- **NO PASSENGERS** - Do not carry passengers on your ATV. Carrying passengers on an ATV designed for a single rider can upset the balance of the machine and make it more likely to tip or roll over. Some of the newer ATV's are specifically designed for two riders. The wheelbase on these machines is longer.



Safety Tips

- **GET TRAINED** - Do not let young or inexperienced riders operate ATVs without training and supervision. Contact Resources for a safety education class near you. <http://www.atvsafety.gov/>
- **MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE** - Always maintain a safe distance between riders. Tailgating can lead to collisions and injuries. Give the rider in front of you some space. You never know when they will have to stop quickly or turn sharply to avoid an obstacle.
- **NEVER RIDE ALONE** - Ride with others and let someone know where you are riding. Never ride alone. You never know when you will need help.
- **CHECK THE WEATHER** - Be informed of local weather conditions. Many of us forget that the weather has a dramatic affect on the trails we ride. Dress and equip yourself appropriately for the weather.



Safety Tips

- **KNOW THE AREA YOU RIDE IN** - Be aware potential hazards. The better you know the terrain and trails in the area you will be riding the safer you will be. If you don't know the area, find someone who does and ride with them the first few trips. Not only will you be safer but you will learn the trails quicker.
- **CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT** - Make sure your equipment is in top working order.
- **CARRY A MAP** - Carry a map of the trail or area you intend to travel. If you can't get a map get a GPS. Most modern GPS's have a "track back" feature that will allow you to retrace your ride and get back to where you started.
- **RIDE THE RIGHT ATV** - Most manufacturers recommend certain size ATV's for certain ages. Most manufacturers recommend an ATV less than 70cc for children under 12, a 70cc to 90cc ATV for children 12 to 16 and an ATV larger than 90cc for people over 16.



General Information



- Drivers must be licensed, and their qualification to drive the GATOR must be annotated on their SF 348/346.
- **Helmet and eye protection** are required for **both** driver and passenger if driving off the ramp/off road.
- The GATOR will not be driven on public roadways except to cross the road at designated crossing points, or with a road guard.
- Passengers may not ride in the cargo area. Cargo weighing more than 50 lbs must be should in the cargo bed.

Driving Safety



■ Climbing/Descending Hills

- Always use Brakes going down hill to prevent “Free-Wheeling”
- Driving Across Slopes – When on Soft Terrain turn wheels slightly uphill to keep vehicle straight
- If vehicle begins to “tip over” turn front wheels Downhill to regain control
- Never Cross body of water where depth unknown making control difficult to maintain.
- Do NOT modify the machine
- Tire Safety – Explosive separation of tire and rim parts can cause serious injury/death = Correct Tire Pressure, use clip on chuck extensions and stand to one side when inflating

Licensing



- Drivers will complete training prior to operating an ATV/Gator.
- SF346 or other driving records will be properly annotated "ATV Qualified" and/or "Gator Qualified" by unit master driver.
- Training documentation will be kept by the master driver and will include Names, Rank, SS#, Unit Assigned and dates of training.



Service Intervals

■ DAILY

- Test Safety Systems
- Check Tire Pressure
- Fuel Level
- Engine Oil Level
- Remove grass and debris from engine compartment, muffler area, and front grille, before and after operating machine
- Clean air intake
- Check area below machine for leaks
- Check drive belt
- Check brakes and park brake operation



CONCLUSION

- Training Annotation on SF 348 and SF 346 for ATV/Gator
- Carry your license on person
- Wear proper PPE
- Leader Involvement
- **Commander's Guidance...Driving is a privilege....easy to LOSE this privilege!!!**
- **Be the Safety Officer.....on-the-spot corrections**
- Be Professionals!