



# ATV Safety

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use has become popular for work and recreation. Unfortunately, research indicates a rise in fatalities and injuries involving ATVs, mostly due to driver misuse and inappropriate rider behavior. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Kentucky was third in the nation with 114 ATV deaths reported from 2005 to 2007, behind West Virginia and Florida.

## ATV safety tips

- ▶ Receive proper training on driving an ATV.
- ▶ Wear an approved helmet and protective clothing.
- ▶ Do not operate on paved roads and avoid unfamiliar terrain.
- ▶ Read the owner's manual carefully, and keep the ATV in good repair.
- ▶ Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV.
- ▶ Do not drive in adverse weather, hazardous terrain, or insufficient light.
- ▶ Do not take unnecessary risks such as performing stunts, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving at excessive speeds.
- ▶ Children should never ride or be a passenger on an adult ATV, and should be supervised at all times.



Thirty-five percent of ATV related deaths involve people less than 16 years of age.\*  
Nearly one-half of all individuals injured in ATV crashes are under 16 years of age.\*

## Tips on helmets

- ▶ Make sure the helmet is approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the American National Standards Institute, or the Snell Memorial Foundation.
- ▶ Make sure the helmet fits properly with comfortable padding, a seal around the ear, and a neck roll.
- ▶ Always fasten the chin strap so it doesn't come off in a crash.
- ▶ Helmets deteriorate with age and should be replaced after a maximum of five years (check manufacturer instructions). Helmets must also be replaced if involved in a crash, or a dent or crack is visible.
- ▶ Helmets protect your eyes and ears from the wind, therefore helping you to see and hear better. (If your helmet does not have a face shield, wear goggles.) By reducing the amount of wind, you will also be less fatigued!
- ▶ If your helmet has a face shield, make sure it's easy to open, stays in position when raised, and does not distort your view.



Over one in five ATV injuries involve head injuries (concussions and brain injuries).\*  
Over one-half of ATV injuries are to people not wearing protective equipment.\*

\*Source: [Brain Injury Association of Kentucky](#)

# Frequently asked questions



**Q: What is Kentucky's ATV law?**

**A:** "All-terrain vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for recreational off-road use. The law can be referenced at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/krs/189-00/515.pdf>.

**Q: What is Kentucky's ATV helmet requirement?**

**A:** Riders under age 16 must wear a helmet at *all times*. Riders age 16 and over must wear a helmet on public property.

**Q: Can I ride my ATV on the road?**

**A:** No. ATVs are not designed for use on roadways, and it is against the law. The only allowable situation for an ATV to be on the road is for agricultural reasons. The law allows farmers to get from one property to another if their property is divided by a road.

**Q: Does Kentucky register ATVs?**

**A:** No. Registration allows a vehicle to be used on public roadways. An ATV cannot be made "street legal" and therefore cannot be registered.

**Q: Does Kentucky require a Certificate of Title for ATVs?**

**A:** As of January 1, 2010 all ATVs will be titled.

**Q: Is ATV rider training mandatory?**

**A:** ATV training is not mandatory in Kentucky, unless ordered by a judge for violations.

**Q: Where can I find an ATV rider safety course?**

**A:** Call 1-800-887-2887 or visit [www.atvsafety.org](http://www.atvsafety.org) for the ATV RiderCourse<sup>SM</sup> nearest you.

**Q: Where can I find places to ride my ATV in Kentucky?**

**A:** Discover the Commonwealth with our Interest Finder at <http://tourism.ky.gov/interestfinder.htm>.

## Did you know?



The top Kentucky counties in ATV deaths are Pike, Breathitt, Floyd, Harlan, Letcher, Clay, Leslie, Pulaski, Bell, Laurel, Perry, Trigg and Whitley.

**Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority**

<http://tourism.ky.gov/krta>

**Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife**

<http://fw.ky.gov>

**Kentucky Sports Authority**

<http://kysportsauthority.com>

**Kentucky Department of Agriculture**

[www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com)

**For additional information:**

- **4-H Community ATV Safety Program:** [www.atv-youth.org](http://www.atv-youth.org)
- **American Academy of Pediatrics:** [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
- **ATV Safety Institute:** [www.atvsafety.org](http://www.atvsafety.org)
- **Brain Injury Association of Kentucky:** [www.biak.us](http://www.biak.us)
- **Children's Safety Network:** [www.childrensafetynetwork.org](http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org)
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission:** <http://www.cpsc.gov>
- **Farm Safety 4 Just Kids:** [www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org)
- **National Ag Safety Database:** <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd>