

# ATV Safety Tips

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Have fun,  
and be safe!



*Compliments of*  
**Your State Senator**

# Introduction

**It's A SUNNY DAY**, and you are headed out to the trail. Riding an ATV can be fun, but first make sure you are aware of the potential hazards.

An all-terrain vehicle is any motorized off-highway vehicle designed to travel on four low-pressure tires. ATVs are potentially harmful

machines that can travel at speeds in excess of 60 mph. ATVs can easily roll and tip over, so it is important to know how to operate them.

How can you stay safe?

See tips below to learn how to have fun and stay safe! More information on ATV safety is also available online at [www.ATVSafety.gov](http://www.ATVSafety.gov).

## Top 10 Tips to Stay Safe

### 1 Take a rider safety course

All riders should take a safety course to learn about proper protective gear, techniques for riding on different terrain, and tips such as not riding on paved roads, not riding at night, and not riding with two people on an ATV.

### 2 Know your age

In Pennsylvania, children under eight years old are prohibited from riding or operating ATVs. The standard guidelines for engine size according to age are:

- 8 and older — to 70 cc's
- 12 and older — to 90 cc's
- 16 and older — 90 cc's and up

### 3 Protect Yourself

Proper gear can keep you from getting hurt. When you ride, make sure you have gloves, boots and eye protection. And remember...always wear a helmet!

### 4 Stay on unpaved roads

ATVs are made for trails. Off-road vehicles run the risk of being hit by cars or other vehicles on the roadways. ATVs do not have the same protection features as cars, making it much easier to be severely injured.

### 5 Ride without passengers

Most ATVs are made for one person and only one person. Carrying a passenger makes it more likely to throw the ATV off balance and tip easier. New 2-Up ATVs are on the market and are meant for a driver and passenger over the age of 12.

### 6 Know how to control your ATV

The way a driver moves plays an important role in controlling the vehicle. The driver must be able to shift his or her weight in all directions. If a passenger gets in the way or shifts his or her weight improperly, the driver may not be able to safely control the ATV.

### 7 Ride with a clear head

NEVER drive an ATV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Drivers must devote their full attention to the vehicle while operating an ATV.

### 8 Know the rules

Each state has its own rules for ATV riding. In Pennsylvania, ATV registration must be renewed every two years. No one under the age of 8 can operate an ATV on state-owned land, and no one between the ages of 8 and 15 may operate an ATV unless on a parent's land or in possession of a safety training certificate. In the years 2005-07, 87 deaths were reported as a result of ATV-related accidents in Pennsylvania.

### 9 Ride the correct size machine

Make sure your machine is the correct size by following these guidelines:

#### a. Clearance between ATV seat and inseam when standing

There should be a 3-6" space between the seat and your inseam of your pants when standing up on the ATV foot pegs.

#### b. Upper legs

The upper part of your legs should be horizontal to control your ATV.

#### c. Foot length

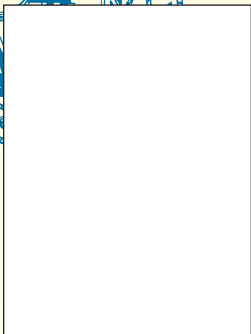
Make sure you can brake correctly. You should be able to use the brakes without hesitation.

#### d. Grip reach

Make sure your arms create a small angle when reaching for the gearshift on your ATV so you don't have to lean all the way forward to reach the handles.

### 10 Respect the outdoors

Before you ride make sure to know the land restrictions of the area. This helps you to keep good relationships with others who share the land, including public land officers and private land owners. It is important to obey trail markers and closure signs and leave gates and fences the way you found them. Most importantly, be courteous to others on the trail. Hikers and horseback riders get the right of way.



**Your State Senator**

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