



## Introduction

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are a useful tool. You can use them to round up stock, transport or tow goods, and spray crops.

However, ATVs have been involved in accidents that have resulted in fatalities or severe injuries in Tasmania.

ATVs may not account for as many incidents as (say) manual handling tasks — but the sheer severity of risks associated with ATVs mean they cannot be ignored as a significant hazard.

Injuries may occur if:

- the ATV rolls over — if you hit an object, or go down an embankment that's too steep
- you don't know how to shift your body weight, or you're unfamiliar with the controls
- you carry a passenger
- the load you're carrying is too heavy or unevenly distributed
- the brakes and suspension are poorly maintained.

Follow these safety measures to reduce the risk of an ATV accident in your workplace.

## ATV SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

### Use personal protective equipment

- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear sturdy boots, gloves, long sleeves and long trousers.
- Use eye protection.
- Wear a high visibility jacket where necessary.

### Maintain your ATV

- Follow the advice in your owner's manual.
- Check your brakes and tyres regularly.
- Keep all guards in place, especially foot guards.
- Make sure that all parts are genuine or suited to your ATV.
- Make sure any damage or mechanical failure is repaired — and reported and communicated to all possible riders of the affected machine.
- Do not use your ATV if it needs repairing.

### Use your ATV safely

- Drive at a speed that allows you to safely avoid sudden changes in terrain or other potential hazards.
- Plan your work tasks so your need to travel quickly between work sites is removed or reduced.
- Maintain your correct body position and weight distribution while using your ATV.
- Do not use your ATV under adverse conditions such as bad weather, insufficient light or hazardous terrain.
- Look out for potential hazards when riding: rocks, bumps, irrigation pipes and wildlife.
- Take care in unfamiliar or rough territory.
- Be careful when turning, approaching hills or navigating obstacles.
- If you are unsure about an obstacle, find another route or go back.
- Don't ride on paved surfaces (ATVs are not designed for this).
- Never ride on public roads. It may be difficult to avoid a collision if other vehicles are using the road.
- Never leave your ATV with the motor running.
- Make sure attachments or loads don't alter the ATV's centre of gravity and affect its stability.
- Always use the buddy system, with someone in another ATV or vehicle — never ride off alone.

### Don't carry passengers

- Never carry passengers unless the manufacturer's specifications allow it. Most ATVs are for single-person use, as they need the driver to shift their weight to control; a passenger restricts this and can result in instability.

### Get training and follow age restrictions

- All riders should receive sufficient training and supervision.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations of a minimum age of 16 for ATV riders.
- Never allow young riders to use an ATV without appropriate supervision. Young riders don't always have the weight, limb size, skill and judgement to control an ATV safely.

### Don't speed or try stunts

- Treat your ATV like another piece of work machinery — never try jumps, wheelies or other stunts.
- Ride at an appropriate speed for the terrain, your experience and the visibility conditions.

### Don't mix ATVs and drugs, alcohol, fatigue

- Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Be wary of prescription drugs that may have side effects that affect your balance, vision or concentration.
- Beware of fatigue. Using an ATV is more physically demanding than driving a car. If you are travelling long distances, take frequent rest breaks.
- Make sure you are sitting comfortably.

### Remember your responsibilities

- As an ATV owner, you must understand the risks associated with ATVs and know the safety precautions to take. You must ensure that anyone riding your ATV has the necessary skills and understanding to use it safely.
- If you are an employer, you have a duty of care under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* to ensure that your ATV is properly maintained and used according to the manufacturer's specifications; and that your workers are adequately trained and wearing protective gear.
- If you are an employee, you also have a duty under this Act to make sure you operate the ATV according to your employer's instructions.
- If you are a self-employed, you also have a duty under this Act to make sure you and others are not exposed to risks arising from the work you are doing.

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