



# ATV Safety Fact Sheet



## Did You Know...

...That Michigan is fourth in the Nation for ATV sales and registrations?

...Michigan, in 2004, has over 189,000 registered ATV's?

...7.5% of these ATV's are registered in the Upper Peninsula?

...92.5% of these ATV's are registered in the Lower Peninsula?

...17.5% of these are registered in the Northern half of the Lower Peninsula?

...82.5% of these are registered in the Southern half of the Lower Peninsula?

## What does this mean?

The All Terrain Vehicle is a highly versatile machine. Their increase in popularity has risen at a rate of over 22%, per year, recorded from 2000 ~ 2003. Some manufactures have realized a growth in Michigan alone, of over 60%.

Make yourself and others more aware of the safety concerns related to these vehicles.

Know if your friends and neighbors have these vehicles. Ask if your children will have access to them.

Be sure the owners themselves have had safe operation training.

## Did You Know...

...That the US Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks ATV crash statistics Nationally?

...Michigan is ranked as the fourth highest, in the Nation, for crashes and deaths involving ATV's?

...Michigan State Police data from 2002, identified over 600 crashes and 15 deaths involving ATV's and "on road" vehicles? Of these, 289 crashes and 7 deaths involved children under age 16.

...Crashes, not involving "on road" vehicles, such as on the State trail system and private property, are not recorded as being related to ATV operation?

## What does this mean?

It is a natural tendency to assume that crash statistics are a result of people who simply do not know what they are doing. It is also a natural tendency to assume that "it won't happen to me"! (I know what I am doing! Or, My kids know how to ride!)

When interviewed, those involved in crashes, typically say, they never thought it would happen to them and, while not understanding "what did happen", tend to blame the vehicle for the crash.

Take care of yourself. Get State certified ATV training, that includes driving your ATV, while under observation and instruction.

## Did You Know...

...That Michigan requires all ATV operators, under age 16, to take a State approved training class?

...Most people are not aware of this requirement or do not know where to get training?

...Of the 189,000 registered ATV's in Michigan, it is estimated that 133,000 of these vehicles are operated by children?

...2003, law enforcement statistics identify an estimated 87% of youths, who operate these vehicles, have not had the required training? This represents over 90,000 untrained youth drivers.

## What does this mean?

The ATV has handling characteristics that are different than any other vehicle.

Do not allow your children or others children to operate your ATV without them first having taken a State approved training class that includes active, "hands-on" driving practice and experience.

Training information and class listings are available through the Michigan ATV Association website at:

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



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## Did You Know...

...That Michigan requires all operators of ATV's, under age 16, to be under the direct visual supervision of an adult at all times?

...A significant factor in the operational characteristics of a youthful ATV driver is the attendance of a parent providing safe and responsible supervision?

...In almost every ATV related crash involving children, the parents have typically said; "We just don't know what happened"? (*No parental supervision*)

...Law enforcement agents see a high rate of unsupervised operation of ATV's by children?

## What does this mean?

While ATV's can be a lot of fun to operate, they are not toys.

Do not use the ATV as a "babysitter". It can not "take care" of your child. It is only capable of doing what the driver tells it to do. Think of it this way: As a parent, you most likely, would not allow a youth to drive your car without supervision, practice and experience.

We must provide a quality, structured learning environment for our children so they can gain the knowledge, skills, confidence and experience to operate successfully, on their own, after they reach age 16.

## Did You Know...

...That the single most significant factor in the successful operation of a vehicle begins in the mindset of the driver?

...In the "Power Sports" industry, the terminology "rider", "riding" and "ride" are common phrases utilized both by enthusiasts and advertisers alike?

...The word "ride" is a passive word and creates a mindset of "no responsibility"?

...We "ride" amusement park and carnival rides? These are "rides" where we do not have "control" over their operation, be it starting, stopping, changing direction, etc.

## What does this mean?

Begin using the word "drive" when relating to ATV operation.

Prompt your children, as well as others, to see themselves as a person who is in control of their ATV at all times.

You can switch the word "ride" with the word "drive". It implies a higher level of responsibility and accountability. Pay attention to the words as you hear them or read them in advertisements. Switch the words and see how the word "drive" feels more "in control".

Promote this concept throughout all media you are in contact with.

## Did You Know...

...That there are no accidents?

While this concept may seem difficult to agree with at first, think of an accident you have seen, been involved in or heard of. Can you think of a way to have prevented the accident?

...That the word "accident" implies no responsibility?

If no one is responsible for the accident or, if we do not figure out how to prevent the accident again, it is bound to be repeated either by ourselves or others.

...If there is, or was, a way to prevent it, it was no accident.

## What does this mean?

Replace the word "accident" with words like "incident", "crash" or "occurrence".

An "incident" implies responsibility. It is an action word that prompts us to look at how we might behave differently to prevent the occurrence from happening again.

Replace this sentence:

"The ATV wouldn't turn and I ran into that tree. It was an accident"!

With this sentence:

"I was going too fast, misjudged the turn and hit that tree."