

## Operating an ATV Safely

ATV's can be fun, but they can also be dangerous. They are notorious for causing injuries and even death, but with the proper safety precautions your chances of injury can be reduced. ATV's are powerful machines that are designed to traverse difficult terrain. They can be difficult to handle and the nature of the riding you can do is dangerous in itself. If you want to stay safe while riding, there are some general safety tips you should follow.

Having experience is the best way to ensure you drive safely. Before you buy your first ATV, make sure you become acquainted with their operation and try one out if possible. There is a wealth of information online about how to properly handle an ATV and proper driving techniques. You should also study the owner's manual to get insight on how to safely drive your ATV.

After you purchase your ATV you should drive with others that are experienced and observe safe driving techniques. The best way to learn how to navigate rough terrain with your ATV is to watch experienced riders navigate. You should begin your ATV hobby by riding on easy, level terrain so that you can get acquainted with your ATV. Taking a training class is also a good way to learn how to safely operate your ATV. Some states require minors to take safety classes prior to being able to ride and they are a good idea for everyone.

No matter how experienced a rider you are, you will inevitably take a few falls. The best way to protect yourself is to wear safety gear at all times. A helmet is a must along with gloves and goggles. You should also wear pants and a jacket that are designed for riding and durable.

They will protect your arms and legs from abrasions and not tear as easily as normal clothes. Many injuries occur because riders do not wear proper safety gear and these injuries could be avoided if riders wear safety gear. Make sure your helmet fits properly and if you do take a serious fall you should replace it if it takes impact.

Another way to stay safe when riding an ATV is to make sure you can handle your machine. Larger more powerful ATV's can be hard to handle and you need to make sure that you can control the ATV you choose. If you have a hard time controlling a large ATV, you can always get a smaller one that will be easier to manage. Make sure you get plenty of practice and are comfortable with your ATV before you tackle tough terrain.

Another safety precaution that seems obvious but causes many injuries is driving under the influence of alcohol. Never operate an ATV if you have been drinking, you can endanger your life and the life of others. ATV's take skill and precaution to operate safely and all ATV owners should follow safety rules. Proper safety equipment and experience will go a long way to keep you safe while on your ATV.