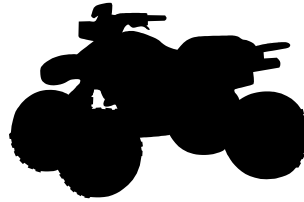


ATV Safety



True Story

A young boy was riding on an ATV near his home. After about an hour, his mother could not hear the ATV. She called police, and a search was organized. The boy was found with the ATV lying on top of him. He was taken to a hospital where he later died.

-From the files of MECAP
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

The Facts

- All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are three- or four-wheeled motorized machines that are specifically designed for off-road travel.
- Between 1982 and 2001, more than 1,700 children age 16 and younger were killed in ATV crashes. Of those, 799 were children age 12 and younger.
- ATV-related injuries are six times more likely to result in hospitalization and 12 times more likely to result in fatalities when compared to bicycle-related injuries.

What You Can Do

- Never allow children age 16 and younger to operate adult-sized ATVs, snowmobiles or tractors.
- Riding double on an ATV is against the law in Iowa.
- Children ages 12 to 17 are required to take a safety course before operating an ATV in Iowa.
- All riders should wear helmets, eye protection and protective reflective clothing.
- Appropriate helmets are those designed for motorcycle (not bicycle) use and should include safety visors/face shields for eye protection.
- Make sure riders do not have clothing that would be at risk for entanglement, such as untied shoe laces and long scarves. Appropriate clothing includes long-sleeved shirts, long pants and boots that come up over the ankle.
- Provide appropriate adult supervision, and make sure riders are on appropriate surfaces (never on a paved surface, as handling may be affected).



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

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