

## ATV Safety

**1. Always Wear Safety Gear: Helmets, Goggles, Boots, Gloves**

There are no seatbelts on an ATV and flipping over is a lot easier than most think, so be prepared by wearing the proper gear.

**2. Do a Pre-Ride Inspection - Every Time**

Check the tires for wear and rims for damage. Look over your controls and make sure connections and cables are intact. Check the chain for worn links, sprockets for broken teeth, and ensure there's enough lubrication.

**3. Don't Ride Alone**

Always have a riding buddy. Running out of gas, getting lost, or crashing is never any fun - but it can be life threatening if you're alone.

**4. No Drinking And Riding**

It's no secret - alcohol and drugs impair your judgment and your ability to ride safely. Don't put yourself or others at risk.

**5. Tired? Stop Riding!**

ATV riding is actually a great way to exercise. Overtime however, those bumps, jumps, and tight corners wear down even the strongest riders. If you can feel fatigue setting in - take a break. Even if you don't feel tired, take a break to rehydrate and eat.

**6. One Rider Only**

Unless you're riding an ATV equipped for two people, there should only be one person riding a machine at any time. No piggy-backing or side riding.

**7. Never Ride on Paved Roads**

Never ride on paved roads, except to cross safely where permitted by law. ATVs are designed to be operated off-highway.

**8. Ride the Right ATV**

What's the right ATV? As a general rule, 90cc

and larger engines are for people ages 16 and older. Don't put your 10 year old on a 250cc ATV.

**9. Be Aware - Know Your Surroundings**

Since you've taken tip #3 to heart, know where your riding partners are. Look ahead so you can see what's coming. Bumps are fun, but when you hit one unexpectedly you can get bounced off your machine. Look out for animals jumping in front of you and be cognizant of other riding parties.

**10. No Goon Riding**

This is probably one of the top reasons riders get hurt. Don't ride beyond your ability!

### ND State Laws

- All riders under the age of 18 (passengers and operator) must wear a helmet.
- All ATVs must be registered, renewing registration once every two years unless solely being driven on private property.
- To operate an ATV, a person 12 years of age to under 16 years of age must possess a driver's license or an ATV safety certificate.
- No passengers are allowed, unless the ATV is designed for carrying a passenger.
- ATV use on roads is limited to county and township roads marked 45 mph and below. ATV use is also allowed in the highway right-of-way, bottom of the ditch, or along the outslope. It is illegal to operate on the shoulder or inside slope. Certain other restrictions apply.

**State Agency that Regulates ATVs:**

Parks and Recreation Department

Check out our course list online for a variety of safety trainings provided across the state at

[www.ndsc.org](http://www.ndsc.org)

*The North Dakota Safety Council is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships and training.*



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