

SAFETY

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)

ATV INJURY FACTS

- The use of ATVs has rapidly increased in rural America and so has the number of ATV-related injuries and deaths.
- Nationwide, an estimated 40,000 children under the age of 16 are seriously injured each year in ATV-related incidents.
- A child under the age of 16 is four times more likely to be seriously injured riding an ATV than a rider over the age of 16.
- Safe Kids USA recommends that children under the age of 16 should never ride on or operate ATVs of any size, including youth-sized ATVs.
- Children younger than 16 years of age account for 31 percent of the deaths. (However, only 14 percent of ATV riders are younger than 16 years of age.)

ATV INJURY PREVENTION

- **Always wear a helmet!** Most injuries associated with ATVs occur when the driver loses control, the vehicle rolls over, the driver or passenger is thrown off or there is a collision with a fixed object.
- Drivers of recreational vehicles should not drive after drinking alcohol. Parents should set an example for their children in this regard.
- Off-road vehicles are particularly dangerous for children younger than 16 years of age who may have immature judgment and motor skills. **Children who are not licensed to drive a car should not be allowed to operate off-road vehicles.**



- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that laws should prohibit the use of ATVs, on- or off-road, by children and adolescents younger than 16 years of age. An automobile driver's license, and preferably some additional certification in ATV use, should be required to operate an ATV. The safe use of ATVs requires the same or greater skill, judgment and experience as needed to operate an automobile.

Brought to you by Trauma Services of Saint Joseph's Hospital. For information on injury prevention programs, contact Amy Schmdt, Injury Prevention Coordinator, 715.387.9600 or amy.schmidt@ministryhealth.org.

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Safe Kids USA

