

Injury Control Strategies

What Can Youth Safety Advocates Do?

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Promote safe practices for ATV operation including:

- Participate in an approved ATV safety training

program

- Always provide responsible adult supervision for ATV operators younger than 18 years of age
- Follow all safety recommendations of the ATV manufacturer
- Operate ATVs only during daylight
- Wear a helmet with face protection at all times
- Operate only four-wheeled ATVs
- Provide a drug and alcohol free environment
- Always use the buddy system
- Avoid riding in areas where contact with automobiles is possible
- Drive ATVs on surfaces as recommended by the manufacturer
- Travel at speeds conducive to conditions and operator abilities
- Check on the conditions of the trails you will be traveling
- Know and understand local and state laws governing the use of ATVs
- Permit only one operator per ATV
- Insist on a "perfect fit" between the ATV and the physical, mental, and emotional maturity of the operator
- Carry equipment to handle medical and mechanical emergencies.

In collaboration with other private and public organizations, youth safety advocates should:

- Collect and monitor ATV-related injury data including helmet use, time of day, surface

type, ATV make/model, environmental conditions, alcohol/drug involvement, and injury severity

- Encourage interventions that are developmentally appropriate; community based; on-going; and incorporate education, enforcement, and engineering strategies.
- Evaluate the efficacy of current ATV safety training programs
- Establish and maintain a trauma system that is responsive to the off-road nature of the sport
- Encourage health care providers to engage in anticipatory guidance about ATV safety
- Work with manufacturers to increase the safety of ATVs
- Develop and promote safe ATV riding opportunities
- Offer the facts on ATV-related injuries to local ATV clubs, media representatives and state organizations
- Consider the promotion of legislation in your state based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) model ATV legislation. (<http://www.aap.org/policy/m951.html>)

For more information:

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