

ATV SAFETY

TYPE OF ACCIDENTS

All terrain vehicles are a common sight at most hunting clubs. Transporting hunters, installing food plots, road maintenance and general trail riding make them a popular equipment choice. However, severe accidents are becoming more common and increasingly due to improper use.



Over 76% of ATV accidents were operator related.

During the last five years, over 46% of ATV related accidents reported to Outdoor Underwriters were due to operator error, traveling too fast, turning sharply, underage drivers, and exceeding the passenger capacity.

The next highest incident category was associated with site related issues such as: poor road and trail maintenance, ditches, gates and fallen trees. Of the 30% of accidents reported were site related, the majority of these accidents were a combination of both operator error and site conditions.

Approximately 11% of the reported accidents involved highway use and auto collisions. Forest fires associated with ATV use were infrequent, but this type of incident often caused significant property damage.

SAFETY TIPS

Operator training and education is critical to the safety of hunting clubs. Machines should be operated within the manufacturers specification. *Supervision of youth and ATVs should be one of the most important components for any hunting club or timberland owner.*

Frequently used trails and areas should be well marked and maintained. To help mitigate your liability the location of gates, ditches, bridges, and other site hazards should be known by all operators and identified on a site map.

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION OFFERS THE FOLLOWING TIPS FOR A SAFER ATV RIDE:

- ➔ **Stay off paved roads.**
- ➔ **Never allow children to operate an ATV designed for adults.**
- ➔ **Do not allow more people on the vehicle than it was designed to carry.**
- ➔ **Always wear a helmet.**
- ➔ **Get hands on training.**
- ➔ **Avoid alcohol use while operating an ATV.**

