

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are necessary for some work practices on farms and ranches, as well as in the backcountry for research purposes. Unfortunately, they are often accompanied by reported cases of serious injuries and deaths. Most of these injuries and deaths can be attributed to improper use of ATVs.

What can I do to reduce my chances of injury/fatality?

1. Ride with appropriate protective gear including, but not limited to: a DOT/Snell ANSI approved helmet, goggles, gloves, over the ankle boots, long-sleeve shirt and long pants.
2. Reduce your speed. Speed is a contributing factor in a majority of ATV incidents.
3. Never allow riders unless the ATV is specifically designed and rated for carrying a second rider.
4. While they can be made street legal in Montana, to make it safer for you, when possible avoid riding ATVs on the streets, highways or paved roads. They are designed for off-road use, they are small making them difficult to see, and often of a color that does not stand out to other drivers on the road.
5. Perform a quick walk-around inspection of the ATV every time before you ride it.
6. The use of attachments/implements may add new hazards. Ensure that you read operating instructions and understand the safety issues and protective measures prior to use. Ask someone familiar with the attachment/implement if you have any questions.



What to look for during an inspection:

- Are tires and wheels in good condition?
- Are controls and cable operational?
- Do the lights and electrics work properly?
- Is there enough oil and fuel?
- Chain/Driveshaft and Chassis
 - Does the chain have proper slack and is it lubricated?
 - Are there any leaks from your driveshaft?
 - Are any bolts/nuts loose?
- Is riding gear available and worn?