



# MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

September, 2014



ATV-Safety Tips for  
Agriculture & Recreation



ATVs are becoming more and more popular for work and play. Farmers and ranchers have really put them to use in different phases of agriculture. They are quite prolific on all of our research support units on and off the campus using them for many different agriculture-related activities. Unfortunately, we have had some accidents and injuries with the ATVs. In the USA there are 130,000 emergency room visits and 600 fatalities each year. Most of these are related to improper use of the ATVs. In Mississippi:

- 1982-2011 - There was 334 deaths from ATV/ORVs
- 2008-2011 - There were 54 deaths.
- 1982-2007 – There were 110 deaths, all under 16 years of age.
- These figures were reported deaths only.
- Regulations regarding ATV use vary from state-to-state; Mississippi has no state agency to control ATV safety.
- The only requirements for Mississippi:
  - ~Allowed to ride in state parks in designated areas
  - ~Must have a safety education certificate unless the person has a valid Miss. drivers' license.

## Risk Factors Causing Accidents and Deaths on ATVs:

- ✓ Lack of helmet use
- ✓ Under age ( 16 years and younger)
- ✓ Riding with extra passengers (not designed for extra rider)
- ✓ Excess speed/or use on paved roads
- ✓ Drugs and Alcohol use
- ✓ Riding after dark without proper lighting and with proper lighting
- ✓ Inexperienced operators

The following link will connect you with all facets of information regarding ATV/ORV use and regulations: [www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/ATV-Information](http://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/ATV-Information).

## Ride Responsibly

- Travel in areas open to ATV use.
- Avoid doing “wheelies” and other “hot dog” tactics and avoid driving over obstacles that might put you in “harm’s way.”
- Slow down when you have poor sight lines and when crossing creeks. Comply with all signs and barriers.
- Avoid using earphones for listening when driving the machine. (loud music from phones impairs hearing)
- Don’t mix alcohol and drugs.

## Respect the Rights of Others-

- Respect the rights of land owners, recreational trail users, campers, and others so that they too can enjoy recreational activities undisturbed. Be considerate of other folks!
- Ask permission to cross private lands, respect the property when permission is granted and leave the gates as you found them.
- Obey all signs and barriers. Pull off to the side of a trail to allow bikers and horses to pass. Turn off the engine when horses are present and until they pass.
- Keep your speed slow around crowds; avoid pic-nicking and residential areas.
- Keep the noise and dust levels down.

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Excerpts: <http://treadlightly.org/quick-tips-for-responsible-atv-riding>  
<https://store.extension.iastate.edu> \*\*\* [www.atvsafety.com](http://www.atvsafety.com)

## Tips for Safety in Farm Work & Recreation-

### ✓ **Wear the Right Gear-**

~Head Protection- A helmet is the most important piece of equipment for ATV users. Purchases and use a helmet designed for ATV operators. Bicycling and skateboarding helmets are not designed for ATV use; they have no face protection. ATV helmets are made to withstand harsh blows and absorb energy on impact.

### ✓ **Eye Protection-**

~A face shield might be a part of the helmet; if not ANSI approved goggles or glasses with polycarbonate lenses should be used. These will protect your eyes from flying debris, rocks, twigs, etc.

### ✓ **Body Protection-**

~**Gloves** will protect your hands from scrapes, will improve your grip on the controls and reduce soreness from pressure of holding the controls.

~**Boots** protect your feet from ground debris and aid in keeping your feet properly on the foot rests. This is important in that it helps maintain balance and control of the ATV.

~**Clothing** such as a long-sleeved shirt and long pants will protect your body from scratches, scrapes caused from branches and other debris. Proper clothing also protects the operator from weather elements, like sunburn in the spring and summer and frostbite in the winter. Optional gear for extreme use could be the use of padded jerseys and shin guards, if needed.

## Pre-Ride Inspection Checks-

Before every use, whether it is for work or recreation, an inspection should be made to insure a trouble-free day on the ATV:

- Check the tires for correct air pressure, cuts, scrapes, etc.
- Check and tighten axle nuts.
- Check the brakes, controls and cables for proper adjustment.
- Check lights and ignition that they are in proper working order.
- Always check fuel and oil levels.
- Inspect the drive shaft chassis to see that the chains are lubricated and all nuts and bolts are tight.

## Acronym for Proper Starting-BONEC-

**B-Brake-** Always keep the parking brake on.

**O-On-** On position for fuel cap vent or valve and then for ignition, if equipped.

**N-Neutral-** The transmission should always be in neutral.

**E-Engine-** The engine stop switch should always be in the “Run” or “Start” position.

**C-Choke-** If the engine is “cold,” put the choke in the “On” position and start the engine according to the instruction manual.

**BEING ALERT NEVER HURTS**



**ACCIDENTS HURT <> SAFETY DOESN'T**