

Step Outdoors

2. Riding on Different Types of Terrain

a) Mud and Water

- ATVs are designed to ride through shallow water and mud, but they also can damage the environment, as a result, it is not recommended to ride an ATV in a creek or stream.

b) Snow

- Ride only on firm snow or groomed trails. Riding on soft snow can damage the terrain.

c) Sand Dunes

- Avoid riding on vegetation.
- Avoid wet sand.

d) Crossing Roads and Highways

Because ATVs are designed exclusively for off-road use, they can be difficult to handle on paved surfaces. Riding on or crossing a road illegally or improperly is a leading cause of ATV rider fatalities. If you must cross a road, follow this safe procedure:

- Pick a crossing point where you have good visibility in both directions.
- Bring your vehicle to a complete stop on the shoulder of the road.
- Look both ways and yield to oncoming traffic.
- Drive forward slowly because your ATV may be difficult to maneuver on pavement.
- Drive straight across the road.

Safety Tips

- Don't ride alone.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Don't drive tired.

If You Have an Accident

You are required by law to report immediately any accident you are involved in that results in serious injury or death, or more than \$1000 in damages. Use the quickest means of communication, and notify at least one of the following: conservation officer, or the police.

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3. Who can operate an ATV?

Children under 14 must not operate an ATV unless supervised, accompanied by, and always in clear view of: a parent; or someone at least 18, who is authorized by the child's parent.

For parents, there are several things to consider in the purchase of an ATV for your children. Consider the following factors:

- Physical development: Can your child sit comfortably on the ATV and reach the controls easily?
- Motor skills: Is your child's coordination adequate for the challenge of riding an ATV?
- Visual perception: Does your child have good depth perception, peripheral vision, and the ability to judge distances?
- Social/emotional maturity: Will your youngster understand the risks involved in riding an ATV, make good decisions to avoid accidents, and drive responsibly?
- For your child's safety and comfort, you must match your child with an ATV engine size that is appropriate for his or her age group.
 - Under 16—less than 90cc
 - Sixteen and older—over 90cc



4. Your Role

You will be your child's teacher and safety advisor, so you must be familiar with your youngster's ATV. You will need to know the controls, handling characteristics, maintenance requirements, and proper riding techniques.

EXTENSION

Create a small test or questionnaire based on the material and administer it to the participants providing prizes for correct answers.

REFERENCES

http://www.offroad-ed.com/in/handbook/kids_on_wheels.htm

<http://www.mpi.mb.ca>