

FIELD RESEARCH SAFETY HAZARD GUIDELINE

ATV/Utility Vehicle (UTV)

Hazards	Potential Hazards	<p>ATVs and UTVs provide efficient transportation and versatility in various outdoor environments. This fact sheet aims to promote safe and responsible use of these vehicles. It is crucial to follow proper safety protocols and guidelines to prevent accidents and injuries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollovers: ATVs and UTVs can be prone to rollovers, especially on uneven terrain or steep slopes. Understand the vehicle's stability and take precautions to prevent rollover incidents. • Unsafe driving conditions: Be aware of adverse weather conditions, such as rain, snow, or high winds, which can impact vehicle control and visibility. • Collisions: Stay alert and watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, or obstacles on the trail or path.
Hazard Controls	Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmet: Always wear a properly fitted DOT-approved helmet to protect against head injuries. • Eye protection: Use goggles or a face shield to shield your eyes from debris and maintain clear vision. • Protective clothing: Wear long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots to protect against cuts, scrapes, and other injuries. • Reflective gear: Increase visibility by wearing reflective clothing or accessories, especially during low-light conditions or when riding on public roads.
	Preparation and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the operator's manual: Familiarize yourself with the specific ATV or UTV model's features, controls, and safety guidelines. • Complete a safety course: Consider taking an ATV or UTV safety training course to gain knowledge and practical skills for safe vehicle operation. • Check local regulations: Understand the laws and regulations governing ATV/UTV use in your area, including age restrictions, registration, and permitted riding locations. • Inspect the vehicle: Before each use, check the tires, brakes, lights, controls, and other essential components for any signs of damage or malfunction.

	General Work Practice Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow recommended passenger limits: ATVs and UTVs are designed to carry a specific number of occupants. Do not exceed the vehicle's designated capacity. • Ride on designated trails or areas: Stick to authorized routes, trails, or roadways. Respect private property and obtain permission when necessary. • Maintain a safe speed: Adapt your speed to the terrain, visibility, and trail conditions. Reduce speed when approaching curves, hills, or obstacles. • Avoid risky maneuvers: Do not attempt stunts, wheelies, or other dangerous maneuvers that may result in loss of control or accidents. • Keep a safe distance: Maintain a safe distance between vehicles to allow for sudden stops or maneuvers.
Other	Waste	Containerize, remove, and properly dispose all generated waste when you leave the area.
	Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry a communication device: Keep a fully charged mobile phone or two-way radio to communicate in case of emergencies. • Share your itinerary: Inform a trusted person of your riding plans, including the route, duration, and expected return time. • Know your location: Be aware of your surroundings and landmarks to provide accurate information to emergency responders if needed. • In case of an accident or injury: Contact emergency services immediately and provide details about the situation and location. • First aid: Apply first aid to your capabilities. Assess for spinal injury before attempting to move the victim. If the victim is unresponsive assume spinal injury. • Reporting: Report all ATV/UTV accidents involving injury or property damage to the authorities and your direct supervisor.
	Reference and Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Dep. Of Conservation & Natural Resources • Polaris ATV/UTV safety article • SafeRiders! Snowmobile safety courses
	Questions	Contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) at (215) 707-2520