

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs) ARE NOT FOR KIDS!

WHAT ARE ATVs?

ATVs are 3 or 4 wheeled motorized vehicles. Originally they were used for farming, forestry, natural resource exploration and law enforcement. They are now popular for tourism, recreation, trail riding and camping.

In Canada, nearly **25% of ATV-related deaths are among children under 15 years of age**, and more than one-third of serious injuries from ATV crashes are among children in this same age group. ATV injuries have been reported in children as young as one year old.



DID YOU KNOW ...in June 2004, The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS), released a position statement recommending that children under the age of 16 years **SHOULD NOT** operate an ATV?

HOW TO PREVENT ATV-RELATED INJURIES

You are more likely to be injured on an ATV if you don't use it properly. If you are a parent who owns or operates an ATV, you can **model safe behavior** by following these guidelines:

- ✦ Children younger than 16 years old should NOT operate ATVs. They do not have the strength, skills or experience to handle ATVs safely.
- ✦ Injuries are more likely to occur on three-wheeled ATVs, which are more unstable than four-wheeled vehicles. Three-wheeled ATVs are NOT recommended.
- ✦ ATVs are meant to be used by a single driver. Children should NEVER ride as passengers on ATVs.
- ✦ ATV drivers should ALWAYS wear an approved helmet, eye protection, and proper clothing (i.e. boots, gloves and long pants).
- ✦ ATV drivers should take an approved training course (i.e. ATV Rider's Course – Canadian Safety Council – www.safety-council.org).

INJURIES ARE NOT ACCIDENTS...THEY ARE PREDICTABLE AND PREVENTABLE!