

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Rules for all workplaces



OSHA | Oregon
OSHA
Department of Consumer
and Business Services

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are off-road, single-rider vehicles intended for transport over rough terrain. They are common on farms, ranches, vineyards, and other agricultural workplaces — and most work-related ATV injuries happen in those settings. However, ATVs are used in many other industries; more than 40 percent of all work-related ATV injuries happen off the farm.

Riding risks and hazards

Paved roads. ATVs can be difficult to control on paved roads, even at slow speeds. They are also a hazard for other motorists who pass them on roads and highways.

Rough terrain and excessive speed. ATVs make it easier to reach remote locations, but drivers need to be aware of rocks, logs, ditches, equipment, and other obstacles. Driving too fast reduces the time to safely react to adverse situations and increases the risk of overturning the ATV or striking an unmarked object.

Steep slopes. ATVs can be easy to overturn, especially on steep slopes. Inexperienced drivers tend to overestimate an ATV's stability on uneven terrain. Traveling across slopes on three-wheeled vehicles is particularly dangerous.

Passengers and unstable loads. Most ATVs are not designed to carry passengers; an extra rider does not have a secure place to stand or sit and can make the vehicle unstable. Improperly secured cargo also affects an ATV's stability and safe handling.

Using protective equipment

When a potential hazard exists, such as being thrown from an ATV while on uneven terrain, the employer must assess the hazard and provide employees with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Common ATV protective equipment includes head and eye protection, such as a off-road helmet with a fastened chinstrap and safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield. Over-the-ankle boots and off-road-style gloves may also be needed.

In conducting this assessment, Oregon OSHA expects employers to review and apply the ATV manufacturer's instructions when evaluating hazards associated with ATV operation. Additionally, when an employer determines that PPE is necessary, the employer must ensure employees follow the PPE manufacturer's instructions for proper use.



Types of ATVs

In Oregon, there are four ATV classes:

- Class I – (ORS 801.190) – includes “three-wheelers” and “quads”
- Class II – (ORS 801.193) – includes sport utility vehicles capable of cross-country travel, dune buggies, and sand rails
- Class III – (ORS 801.194) – includes off-road motorcycles
- Class IV – (ORS 801.194) – includes “side-by-sides”

Oregon OSHA rules that apply to ATVs

(Oregon Parks and Recreation Department also has requirements for ATVs)

Agricultural workplaces

Oregon OSHA's agriculture rules apply when workers, other than family members, could be exposed to hazards.

- 437-004-0099(2) (Subdivision 4/A) Employers must require employees to demonstrate their ability to work safely and ensure they follow safe operating procedures.
- 437-004-1005(2) (Subdivision 4/I) Employers must assess their workplaces to determine if there are hazards that would require employees to use personal protective equipment.
- 437-004-1005(7) (Subdivision 4/I) Employees must follow the manufacturers' instructions for wearing and using personal protective equipment.
- 437-004-3410(3) (Subdivision 4/U) Only trained, authorized employees must operate vehicles; passengers are not permitted unless the vehicle is designed to accommodate them.

General Industry workplaces

- 437-002-0134(1) (Subdivision 2/I) Employers must assess their workplaces to determine if there are hazards that would require their employees to use personal protective equipment.
- 437-002-2224 (Subdivision 2/N) Vehicle drivers and riders must have safe places to sit.

Construction workplaces

- 437-003-0134(1) (Subdivision 3/E) Employers must assess their workplaces to determine if there are hazards that would require their employees to use personal protective equipment.

All workplaces

- 437-001-0760(1) (Division 1) Employers must ensure that their employees are properly instructed and supervised in the safe operation of machinery, tools, and equipment that they are authorized to use.
- Employers must ensure employees use all means and methods necessary to safely accomplish all work where employees are exposed to a hazard.

Resource

- ☞ [Oregon OSHA's ATV safety training program](#)
- ☞ [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, All-Terrain Vehicle program](#)
- ☞ [Oregon Online ATV Safety Education Course](#)
- ☞ [All-Terrain Vehicle Hazards during Farm Work – Agricultural Safety Fact Sheet, Federal OSHA](#)
- ☞ [Hazards Associated with All-Terrain Vehicles \(ATVs\) in the Workplace – Safety and Health Information Bulletin, Federal OSHA](#)



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Workers

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