

Farm ATV Safety

The rate of fatality and serious injury relating to ATV use on Australian farms has increased tenfold over the last 10 years, with over 10 deaths per year. The main cause of severe injury and death are crush injury and asphyxia associated with ATV roll-over, and head and brain injury.

Choosing the right machine for the job

There are a range of Small Utility Vehicles on the market, that have safety features that provide protection for riders and passengers in the event of roll-over and collision, including roll-bars (ROPS) and seat belts. They can also carry and tow heavier loads around the farm.



- Check that the ATV is the safest machine to do the job. If you need to carry passengers, use a ute.
- Do not carry passengers on ATVs.
- No riders under 16 years old should operate an ATV.
- Make sure all riders trained to safely ride the ATV.
- Establish 'no go' areas on the farm, especially on steep hills and slopes, dam banks or where the ATV may be at a higher risk of roll-over.
- Set speed limits on the farm for the ATV.

Maintenance



- Keep the ATV well maintained. Many accidents have been caused by non functioning brakes, suspension and worn tyres.
- Conduct a safety check before riding the ATV each day.
- Check the tyre pressures regularly. Do not over inflate tyres. Check the Operator's Manual for proper inflation. Over inflated tyres decrease ATV stability.

Attachments and Overloading

Many attachments and overloading an ATV decreases stability, causing ATVs to roll-over.



- Do not use attachments that may interfere with operator control.
- Do not modify ATV wheels.
- Do not overload the ATV. Check the Operator's Manual before carrying or towing loads.

Personal Protective Equipment

There is a wide variety of helmets on the market to help protect against head injury. Encourage all riders to wear an approved helmet and work boots.



- Always wear an approved helmet when riding

Farm Safety Checklists, Safety Guides and other farm safety information can be downloaded from Farmsafe Australia's website at www.farmsafe.org.au.

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