

## All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

### Division 1

2/I  
2/N  
4/A  
4/I  
4/U

You may know that most work-related injuries involving all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) happen in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors. But nearly half of all work-related ATV injuries over the past five years happened in other industries. Read this fact sheet to find out what you should know about using an ATV on the job.

### Accepted disabling claims involving ATVs in Oregon

|                                | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | Total      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing | 10        | 11        | 15        | 12        | 11        | 59         |
| All other industries           | 14        | 10        | 13        | 10        | 4         | 51         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>24</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>110</b> |

## All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

### 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”



### Riding risks and hazards

**Paved roads.** ATVs can be difficult to control on paved roads, even at slow speeds. Also, they become a hazard for other motorists who pass them on highways.

**Rough terrain and excessive speed.** ATVs make it easier to reach remote locations, but drivers need to be aware of rocks, logs, ditches, and other obstacles. Driving too fast limits reaction time and increases the risk of overturning the vehicle or striking an unmarked object.

**Steep slopes.** ATVs are easy to overturn, especially on steep slopes. Inexperienced drivers tend to overestimate an ATV’s stability on such 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 makes the vehicle unstable. Improperly secured cargo also affects an ATV’s stability.

### Website:

[www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org)

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### Training

- Operators who ride Class I and Class III ATVs on public lands (whether or not they are Oregon residents) must take the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's [online ATV Safety Course](#).
- Operators who ride Class II ATVs must have a driver license.
- Employers who allow their employees to use any type of ATV at their workplaces must ensure that they have been instructed how to safely operate them.

### Using protective equipment

Employers must evaluate hazards at their workplaces and provide their employees with personal protective equipment if it is necessary. Protective equipment should include head and eye protection such as a motorcycle helmet with a fastened chinstrap and safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield. Over-the-ankle boots and off-road style gloves are also recommended.

### Riders under 18

Anyone under the age of 18 who rides an ATV on public lands must wear a DOT- (or Snell-) approved motorcycle helmet with the chinstrap fastened. Though a good idea, this requirement does not apply if the ATV is:

- Used exclusively in farming or forestry operations or used by people licensed under ORS chapter 571 exclusively for nursery or Christmas tree growing operations
- Used only on land owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle
- A street-legal Class II vehicle registered in Oregon

### Oregon OSHA rules that apply to ATV use

#### At agricultural workplaces:

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

**(Oregon OSHA's agriculture rules do not apply to farm family members. However, they do apply to all other workers hired to work on the farm.)**

#### At workplaces for all other industries:

- **437-001-0760 (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.
- **437-002-0134 (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 and be protected from hazardous cargo, flammable fuels, and motor vehicle traffic.

### More information

- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, [All-Terrain Vehicle program](#).
- Oregon Online [ATV Safety Education Course](#).
- [Hazards Associated with All-Terrain Vehicles \(ATVs\) in the Workplace](#) — *Safety and Health Information Bulletin*, OSHA.



OR-OSHA (7/14) FS-22

The Standards and Technical Resources Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight our programs, policies, or standards. The information is from the field staff, research by the technical resources staff, and published materials. We urge readers to consult the actual rules as this fact sheet information is not as detailed.